



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Worship Theme – Rooted in Repentance
Sermon Theme – Hope in the God who doesn't change
December 7-9, 2024

Malachi 3:1-7b "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. ²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. ⁵"So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty. ⁶"I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty.

1. Why do you think the song "We Need a Little Christmas" resonates with people and bring up tough feelings during the holidays?
2. When was Malachi's prophecy about the messenger and the Lord suddenly coming fulfilled initially? Why was God so specific in this prophecy?

3. How does the image of a "refiners fire" change the way we prepare for Christmas and Christ's return?
4. How does the image of refining metal help us understand God's purpose in judgment?
5. Why is God's unchanging nature critical for our hope in facing judgment and when enduring refinement?
6. What does it mean for believers to be a part of the "priesthood of all believers," and how's it connect to God's purifying work?
7. How does God's unchanging nature provide both comfort and accountability as we look forward to Jesus' second coming?
8. Repentance defines the Christian's life. How does repentant living shape the decisions you make from breakfast to bed?
9. How is a repentant heart truly prepared for Christmas?