Proper Worship

Throughout the ages, man has sought to worship God. However, many times throughout the ages man has sought to worship God according to his own will rather than Gods. God is seeking worshippers, but He expects that worshippers seeking to worship Him will do so according to His will (John 4:24). Consider the worship presented by the Prophet Malachi and how the Prophet immediately addresses the problem with the worshippers.

Speaking as God's mouthpiece, the Prophet declares, "Where is My honor?" (Malachi 1:6). When God has to ask, "Where is My honor," surely a problem exists. He continues, "Where is my reverence?" (Malachi 1:6). "If you offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil?" (Malachi 1:8) "Offer it now to your governor, will he be pleased with you or accept your person?" (Malachi 1:8) Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain?" (Malachi 1:10) "Should I accept this of your hand?" (Malachi 1:13) - If God is asking these questions due to our worship to Him, then there is definitely something wrong.

"In what way have we defiled You?" (Malachi 1:7) Man questioning God will not right the wrong. The Prophet furthers, "In what way have we defiled You?" (Malachi 1:6) - If God questions us, this does not give us the right to question God. Instead of challenging God, man must challenge himself and diligently seek God’s will in matters of worship.

Worship outside the confines of God's will does not please Him, in fact, it despises Him. "Priests have despised My name" (Malachi 1:6) "You offer defiled bread

upon My altar" (Malachi 1:7) You "profane My name" (Malachi 1:11-12) "You sneer at My name" (Malachi 1:13) "You bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick" (Malachi 1:13) - Whether we agree with God on the subject of worship or not, one thing is always true: God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Therefore, if He says we have violated His law or are acting without authority, then we must repent and submit to the will of the Almighty or prepare to face the consequences of disobedience.

This was a major issue in Malachi's day. Thus, God sent this messenger to preach to the people. The purpose was to prepare the Israelites for the coming of the Christ. As Christians, we learn from this prophet's message the very things we must get right with God now, so we can be prepared for the return of our Lord and Savior. Anytime we do things our way, God will have no pleasure in it, and He will not accept. The result is we will be cursed instead of blessed because of our failure to perform His will (Proverbs 14:12).

The solution to making worship right was given in Malachi 1:9 and it is completely relevant today. "Entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us."