

**“The Love of God for Skeptical Hearts!”
Malachi 1:1-5**

A brief summary of the Old Testament...

Malachi is book of six Oracles...

Oracle 1:1:1-5 Oracle 2: 1:6-2:9 Oracle 3: 2:10-16
Oracle 4: 2:17-3:5 Oracle 5: 3:6-12 Oracle 6: 3:13-4:3

In this last book of the Old Testament, there is a diminished regard for the house of God and a diminished hunger for the Word. The result of this leads to a diminished concern for the poor.

The problem was not a matter of ignorance but one of indifference. Malachi stands before us today, let us listen to him as our contemporary...

***Malachi 1:1-5** – “An Oracle: The word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi. ² “I have loved you,” says the LORD. “But you ask, ‘How have you loved us?’ “Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob, ³ but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals.” ⁴ Edom may say, “Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins.” But this is what the LORD Almighty says: “They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the LORD. ⁵ You will see it with your own eyes and say, ‘Great is the LORD—even beyond the borders of Israel!’”*

God’s love is _____

***Malachi 1:1 -2a** – “A prophecy: The word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi. ² “I have loved you,” says the LORD.*

***Ephesians 2:8-9** – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

“But you ask, ‘How have you loved us?’ “Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob,”

***Matthew 10:37** – “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”*

God’s love is _____

***Malachi 1:2b** – “Israel Doubts God’s Love ² “I have loved you,” says the LORD. “But you ask, ‘How have you loved us?’ “Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob,”*

God’s love is _____

***Malachi 1:4- 5** – “Edom may say, “Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins.” But this is what the LORD Almighty says: “They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the LORD. ⁵ You will see it with your own eyes and say, ‘Great is the LORD—even beyond the borders of Israel!’”*

Sin is a 2lane highway! One path is _____ and the other is _____ rooted in religiosity.

Matthew 21:28-32

Conclusion

***Father, You have loved me before I existed.
Father, You have loved me even when I did not love you back.
Father, You will love me and nothing will ever change that or stop you from loving me. Amen.***