
God is unfair

Malachi 2:17 – 3:12

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words.

But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

"God is unfair." (17)

1 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. 5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. 6 "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

But you say, 'How shall we return?'

8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me.

But you say, 'How have we robbed you?'

In your tithes and contributions. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you.

“God is unfair ...” (17)

“... because He delights in those who do wrong.”

YOU'RE the ones who have done wrong! (7a,8-9)

“... because He delights in those who do wrong.”

YOU'RE the ones who have done wrong! (7a,8-9)

“... because He delays His justice.”

You have no chance of enduring His coming justice! (1-5)

2 Pet 3:3 Scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

2 Pet 3:8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

You have no chance of enduring His coming justice!

So yes, God IS unfair: you've received undeserved mercy! (6)

Respond to His mercy by returning (or turning!) to Him. (7b)

Joel 2:13 Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. 11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. 12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

How are God's people to demonstrate their return to Him?

Bring your best into God's house first, as evidence of your renewed trust in Him. We'll be blessed way more than we deserve ... and more than we'll ever realize. (10-12)

2 Cor 9:6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.