

I Wonder Is God Pleased with Us?

Malachi 1:6–14 (NIV) — **(6)** “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the LORD Almighty. “It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. “But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’ **(7)** “You place defiled food on my altar. “But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’ “By saying that the LORD’s table is contemptible. **(8)** When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the LORD Almighty. **(9)** “Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?”—says the LORD Almighty. **(10)** “Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,” says the LORD Almighty, “and I will accept no offering from your hands. **(11)** My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the LORD Almighty. **(12)** “But you profane it by saying of the Lord’s table, ‘It is defiled,’ and of its food, ‘It is contemptible.’ **(13)** And you say, ‘What a burden!’ and you sniff at it contemptuously,” says the LORD Almighty. “When you bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?” says the LORD. **(14)** “Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king,” says the LORD Almighty, “and my name is to be feared among the nations.

I) The Problem With The Priests, Leaders and People

Exodus 20:12 (NIV) — **(12)** “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Isaiah 64:8 (NIV) — **(8)** Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Leviticus 22:17–33 (NIV) — **(17)** The LORD said to Moses, **(18)** “Speak to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites and say to them: ‘If any of you—either an Israelite or an alien living in Israel—presents a gift for a burnt offering to the LORD, either to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering, **(19)** you must present a male without defect from the cattle, sheep or goats in order that it may be accepted on your behalf. **(20)** Do not bring anything with a defect, because it will not be accepted on your behalf. **(21)** When anyone brings from the herd or flock a fellowship offering to the LORD to fulfill a special vow or as a freewill offering, it must be without defect or blemish to be acceptable. **(22)** Do not offer to the LORD the blind, the injured or the maimed, or anything with warts or festering or running sores. Do not place any of these on the altar as an offering made to the LORD by fire. **(23)** You may, however, present as a freewill offering an ox or a sheep that is deformed or stunted, but it will not be accepted in fulfillment of a vow. **(24)** You must not offer to

the LORD an animal whose testicles are bruised, crushed, torn or cut. You must not do this in your own land, **(25)** and you must not accept such animals from the hand of a foreigner and offer them as the food of your God. They will not be accepted on your behalf, because they are deformed and have defects.’ ” **(26)** The LORD said to Moses, **(27)** “When a calf, a lamb or a goat is born, it is to remain with its mother for seven days. From the eighth day on, it will be acceptable as an offering made to the LORD by fire. **(28)** Do not slaughter a cow or a sheep and its young on the same day. **(29)** “When you sacrifice a thank offering to the LORD, sacrifice it in such a way that it will be accepted on your behalf. **(30)** It must be eaten that same day; leave none of it till morning. I am the LORD. **(31)** “Keep my commands and follow them. I am the LORD. **(32)** Do not profane my holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the LORD, who makes you holy **(33)** and who brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the LORD.”

II) Let’s Find Something Positive

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV) — (14) if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Matthew 22:34–40 (NIV) — (34) Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. **(35)** One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: **(36)** “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” **(37)** Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **(38)** This is the first and greatest commandment. **(39)** And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **(40)** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Proverbs 9:10 (NIV) — (10) “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Galatians 6:9 (NIV) — (9) Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Matthew 5:14–16 (NIV) — (14) “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. **(15)** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **(16)** In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Acts 5:1–11 (NIV) — (1) Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. **(2)** With his wife’s full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles’ feet. **(3)** Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? **(4)** Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.” **(5)** When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. **(6)** Then the young men came forward, wrapped up

his body, and carried him out and buried him. (7) About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. (8) Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.” (9) Peter said to her, “How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.” (10) At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. (11) Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.