

# The Righteous and Wicked

**Malachi 3:13–18 (NLT)** — **(13)** “You have said terrible things about me,” says the LORD. “But you say, ‘What do you mean? What have we said against you?’ **(14)** “You have said, ‘What’s the use of serving God? What have we gained by obeying his commands or by trying to show the LORD of Heaven’s Armies that we are sorry for our sins?’ **(15)** From now on we will call the arrogant blessed. For those who do evil get rich, and those who dare God to punish them suffer no harm.’ ” **(16)** Then those who feared the LORD spoke with each other, and the LORD listened to what they said. In his presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name. **(17)** “They will be my people,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “On the day when I act in judgment, they will be my own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child. **(18)** Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”

**2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NLT)** — **(1)** You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. **(2)** For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. **(3)** They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. **(4)** They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. **(5)** They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

## I) The Arrogance Of God’s People

## II) The Misplaced Aggravation Of God’s People

**Isaiah 58:3–4 (NLT)** — **(3)** ‘We have fasted before you!’ they say. ‘Why aren’t you impressed? We have been very hard on ourselves, and you don’t even notice it!’ “I will tell you why!” I respond. “It’s because you are fasting to please yourselves. Even while you fast, you keep oppressing your workers. **(4)** What good is fasting when you keep on fighting and quarreling? This kind of fasting will never get you anywhere with me.

**2 Timothy 3:5 (NLT)** — **(5)** They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

**1 Timothy 6:9–10 (NLT)** — **(9)** But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. **(10)** For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

**Matthew 6:1 (NLT)** — **(1)** “Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.

**Psalm 73:21–28 (NLT) — (21)** Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. **(22)** I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. **(23)** Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. **(24)** You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. **(25)** Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. **(26)** My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever. **(27)** Those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you. **(28)** But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign LORD my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.

**Proverbs 29:25 (NLT) — (25)** Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.

**Exodus 4:10–12 (NLT) — (10)** But Moses pleaded with the LORD, “O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.” **(11)** Then the LORD asked Moses, “Who makes a person’s mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the LORD?” **(12)** Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.”

### III) We Need To Refocus On The Lord

**Malachi 3:16–18 (NLT) — (16)** Then those who feared the LORD spoke with each other, and the LORD listened to what they said. In his presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name. **(17)** “They will be my people,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “On the day when I act in judgment, they will be my own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child. **(18)** Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”

**Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) — (25)** And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

**Proverbs 1:7 (NLT) — (7)** Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

**Proverbs 15:33 (NLT) — (33)** Fear of the LORD teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor.

**Proverbs 8:13 (NLT) — (13)** All who fear the LORD will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech.

**Proverbs 14:2 (NLT) — (2)** Those who follow the right path fear the LORD; those who take the wrong path despise him.

**Proverbs 10:27 (NLT) — (27)** Fear of the LORD lengthens one’s life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.

**Malachi 3:17–18 (NLT) — (17)** “They will be my people,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “On the day when I act in judgment, they will be my own special treasure. I will spare them as a

father spares an obedient child. **(18)** Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”