

**Recap of 7/24/16 (Malachi 1:2-3):**

1. Malachi calls us to hit the “refresh” button on our spiritual lives. He calls us to examine our attitudes and actions in regard to our relationship with God. We can get caught up in going through the motions of spiritual life and ministry and not realize it; ungodly attitudes and beliefs can creep in.
2. The attitude of the people of Israel at the time of Malachi was that it wasn't worth serving and worshipping God because He hadn't delivered on His promises. They kept up the pretense of worship but their hearts were far from God. They became corrupt morally and spiritually. They adopted the mores of the culture around them. They compromised the Word of God and became self-centered and cynical. (Wilkinson/Boa)
3. God's love was demonstrated to Israel by His choice of them as His chosen nation. “The Hebrews words for loved and hated refer not to God's emotions but to His choice of one over the other for a covenant relationship. (Blaising)
4. Israel is God's elect nation (Romans 9:10-13). Amos 3:2 illustrates that to be chosen is to be “known” by God; Hebrew “yada,” to know in an intimate way. Israel was chose not on the basis of any greatness in her (Deut. 7:1-8), nor on the basis of any righteousness in her (Deut. 9:4-6).
5. Individual believers today are elect, chosen by God for an intimate relationship. A choice not based upon any merit in us (Romans 3:9ff; Psalms 14:1-3) (Acts 13:48; 1 Peter 1:2; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:3-6,11;2:4-5; 1 Thess. 1:4; James 1:18); necessitated by the Fall (Romans 5:12; Genesis 3).