

**Recap of 8/14/16 (Malachi 2:1-9):**

- 1. In Malachi 1:6-14 the focus was on the work of the priests in offering sacrifices; sacrifices which were defiled, defective, and blemished. In 2:1-9 the focus switches to the work of the priests as teachers of the Word of God. At the heart of the peoples apathy toward God and proper worship was the lack of good teaching by the priests. They were ultimately responsible for the disorders of 1:6-14. Chapter two also details their punishment for the offenses of chapter one.**
- 2. The priests were failing to honor God (by offering improper sacrifices; by considering service to God a nuisance and a burden, instead being enthusiastic about the privilege; and by not instructing the people in the Word of God).**
- 3. By the very strong language of 2:3, God expresses His displeasure with the priests. They would be removed from service, discarded as the offal (the waste matter from the sacrifices). God will not be taken lightly.**
- 4. By contrast the ideal priest is described in 2:5-7. He is devoted to God, a person of integrity whose teaching was true and authoritative, a person who was righteous and walked uprightly, and a person of moral influence who turned others from sin.**
- 5. This has direct bearing upon believers today (though we are not under the Old Testament dispensation) in that, in the words of J. Vernon McGee: “Since all true believers are priests in the age in which we live [1 Peter 2], this prophecy of Malachi’s which is directed to priests has real meaning for us.”**
- 6. Put another way: “In our world today—when good is often considered bad and bad is seen as good, when truth and error are switched around—people are looking for direction in life. May we be the ones who shine the light of Christ into our world. (C.P. Hia)**