

Recap of 11/20/16 (Malachi 3:6-8):

1. The Lord is wearied by the Israelite's spiritual antipathy but because God keeps His promises, the nation will be restored in the future. Malachi declares the Lord's immutability in 3:6: "I the Lord do not change." In the words of Warren Wiersbe: "God does not change; therefore He kept His covenant and did not destroy Israel, though she deserved it. The faithfulness of God sustains us (Lam. 3:22-24)."

2. Immutability is described by theologians in the following ways:

-"God cannot and does not change....The value of this doctrine is enormous: since God does not change, His love and His promises forever remain certain." (Moody Handbook of Theology)

-"Immutability means that God is unchangeable, and thus unchanging....He is never inconsistent or growing or developing....Immutability assures us that none of God's perfections change....Immutability offers comfort and assurance that God's promises will not fail (Mal. 3:6; 2 Tim. 2:13)."

3. "It is well for us that, in the middle of all the changes in life, there is One whom change cannot affect, One whose heart can never alter, and on whose brow mutability can make no furrows. Everything else has gone through changes—all things are changing. ... the world is growing old; the folding up of the worn-out vesture has begun; the heavens and earth must soon pass away; they shall perish, they shall grow old as does a garment; but there is only One who has immortality, of whose years there is no end, and in whose person there is no change. ... Whatever His attributes were in ages past, they are now; His power, His wisdom, His justice, His truth are unchanged as well. ... How valuable it is to have the assurance that He doesn't change! The wheel of providence revolves, but its axle is eternal love." (Excerpted from Morning and Evening by C.H. Spurgeon, Nov. 2 reading)

4. In the fifth charge by God against Israel in Malachi (3:7-12), God accused Israel of being a thief for withholding the required tithes and offerings in the Law. They were keeping back that which belonged to God, that to which they had no right. They pretended ignorance in their answer to God, ("How do we rob you?") but in the vernacular His answer to them was "Go through your checkbook!"