

God's Name Matters

Malachi 3:13-18

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Thesis: We must see God as being worthy of our lives. How we see God has a lot to do with how we see His character and name. If we don't see God's character correctly, we can fall into the trap of following God with the goal of getting something from Him. The goal of the Christian life is not the gifts that God gives, but God Himself.

1. False believers only use God for their own desires (3:13-15).

New Testament Connection:

2. True believers only want God (3:16-18).

New Testament Connection:

3. Making the connection to my life: 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

A. Major doctrines:

1. Legalism
2. The Inescapable Judgment of God
3. The Love of God For His Children
4. The Separation of the Righteous and the Wicked

B. Where does my thinking need corrected?

1. Why do I serve and follow God?

2. What do I think about when I think about God's name?

C. Where does my behavior need reproof?

1. Am I living like a legalist?

2. Am I living with future realities in mind?

D. What is the instruction in righteousness from this passage?

1. Daily stop to take time to meditate on God's name, His love for His treasured possession, and His hatred of evil.

2. Take a practical step to root out legalism.