

### “LeftOvers” Worship

Describing contemporary Americans, one author has written, “they work at their play, worship their work and play their worship.” By this he did not mean that we enjoy our worship, that it refreshes and revitalizes us. Instead he meant that we don’t take it very seriously even though it is an essential spiritual discipline.

When we worship, we exalt, honor, adore and glorify God in response to his holiness and his grace in our lives. In our thoughts and in our words, rituals and symbols that we employ in worship we ascribe to God infinite worth that belongs to him alone. Either alone or in unison with other believers, we experience God’s presence and deepen our relationship with him through sincere worship and are thereby inspired to live righteous lives. In this way worship truly is a transforming experience.

Dallas Willard writes, “If in worship we are met by God himself, our thoughts and words turn to perception and experience of God, who is then really present to us in some degree of his greatness, beauty and goodness. This will make for an immediate, dramatic change in our lives.” (The Spirit of the Disciplines, 178) *{Previous 3 paragraphs from Pantego Bible Church, Dr. Tom Bullick}*

Real true worship will always bring about life change. The question for us to consider is how can we go to church sometimes and not experience this life change? I believe the answer is found in several areas: 1. What do we bring to the worship experience? 2. What do we expect from our time together with God? 3. Are we really interested in life change? Are we willing to pay the price of true worship?

In this weeks Core we are going to look at a passage of scripture from the Old Testament. We are going to focus on just a few verses found in Mal. 1:6-14. As you think through these verses and their implications for us today, ask God for wisdom and an open mind. *The following questions are part of a teaching plan found on Pantego Bible Church Resources page. It is written by Dr. Tom Bullick, Spiritual Formation Pastor at PBC, Arlington, Tx.*

#### SECTION 1

Read - Malachi 1:6-14 to get an understanding of the whole passage. Then focus on verses 6-9.

1. What 2 things does God deserve to receive from us based on vs. 6?
2. Explain the irony of the Lord accusing the priests of showing contempt for His name.
3. Describe the priests’ response to the Lord’s accusation.
4. To what does the “Lord’s table” refer? See vs. 7
5. Did the priests actually say that the Lord’s table was contemptible? Explain.
6. Why do you think God is called “Lord Almighty” throughout this passage?
7. What were the priests doing?
8. Why was it wrong? (See Deut. 15:21; Lev. 1:3)
9. Describe what you think of what they were doing.

#### SECTION 2

Read Mal. 1:6-14

1. Describe what God would rather the priests do, and explain why he would prefer they do it.
2. Explain why he calls the fire under the temple altar “useless.”

3. Describe God's attitude toward their acts of worship.  
(See also Isaiah 1:10-17)
4. Verse 11 refers to a future day when the Lord will be worshipped by believers in all nations. Based on Daniel 7:13-14, 27, Zephaniah 3:8-13 and Zechariah 14:1-9, 16 when do you think this will happen?
5. The word "but" in verses 12 indicates contrast. Describe what is being contrasted with what in the immediate context.
6. Put what the priests say in verse 13 in your own words.
7. What is the implied answer to the Lord's questions in verse 13?
8. What do you think of the Lord's words regarding one who engages in "leftovers" worship?
9. Why is "leftovers" worship so inappropriate? (Look after the word that indicates "reason" in verse 14)
10. What do you think was the relationship of the attitude of the priests toward worship and the attitude of the people toward worship?

### SECTION 3

Mediate on Mal. 1:14 "I am a great king," says the Lord Almighty, "and my name is to be feared among the nations."

1. Describe the form that "leftovers" worship takes today.
2. We don't bring sacrifices to God today. What can we do to offer him our best in worship? See Romans 12:1-2