



The Refining Work of the Lord

Malachi 2:17 – 3:5
July 13, 2025

- **THE BIG IDEA:** God seeks more from us than just the right words. He seeks **repentant** hearts that, in complete trust in Him, will receive His gracious work in **purifying** our lives. The evidence of God's salvation will be that we turn **away** from our sin and **to** Him.

Malachi 2:17–3:5 (ESV)

2 ¹⁷You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, "**How** have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

Three Indicators the People Aren't Satisfied in God:

- Ceaseless **talking** (without listening)
- A **complaining** spirit
- Careless **questioning** of His goodness

3 "Behold, ***I send my messenger***, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵"**Then** I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

What Do We Learn Here?

- + Our sin is great and it will be **judged** by our Holy God.
- + Not one of us can **stand** at the judgment of God.
- + Our only hope is in the "Messenger" God the **Father** sent us.
- + Only Jesus can cleanse us from our Sin. This is God's saving work through the **Son**.
- + Only God can cleanse us from all the impurities of our lives. This is God's sanctifying work through the **Holy Spirit**.

The Beauty of God's Refining Work Through Trials

- Trials are a part of how God **works** in our lives. [1 Peter 5:10]
- Trials put God's **power** on display. [Judges 7:2]
- Trials make us more **mature** as individuals and as believers (James 1:2-4).
- Trials make me **depend** on God. [2 Corinthians 12:9]
- Trials may be a part of the **discipline** of the Lord in my life. [Hebrews 12:5-6]
- Trials teach me the **infinite worth** of the Lord. [Psalm 73:25-26; Habakkuk 3:17-19]

"God, I surrender my timing, my will, my plans, and my desires to You. Let Your will be done in my life, and may You receive all the glory. Amen."
