



Is it Worth it to Serve the Lord?

Malachi 3:13-18
August 3, 2025

- **THE BIG IDEA:** Sometimes, in discouragement, self-pity, pride, comparisons, or depression we can begin to question the wisdom of serving God. God sees you, treasures you, and will remember your faithfulness. I need to remember His faithfulness.

Malachi 3:13-18 (ESV)

3 ¹³ "Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' ¹⁴ You have said, 'It is vain to serve God.' What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵ *And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.*"

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and **a book of remembrance** was written before him of *those who feared the LORD* and *esteemed his name*.

¹⁷ "They shall be mine," says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ **Then** once more you *shall see the distinction* between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

The Kind of People We Don't Want to Be

- Those who say, "Serving God is meaningless."
- Those who say, "Evil people are getting away with everything and on top of that, they're prospering!"
- The kind of people who only serve God for what we can get out of it ("profit").
- In short, we don't want our relationship with God to be entirely made of "transactions"

The Kind of People We Want to Be

- + Those who "fear the Lord." [Proverbs 9:10]. To fear the Lord is to tremble at the thought of offending him by unbelief and disobedience.
- + People who "esteem His name" (v. 16). His name is who God is – His very character and nature. [Exodus 20:7; Acts 4:12]
- + People who serve God the way a son serves a father. (v. 17)
 - No more "slavish" attitudes
 - Now, as overwhelmed sons and daughters who say things like, "Look at who my Father is! Can you believe how good and kind and generous Father is? Look at his power! Look at how he loves and treasures his children."

Assurances from God to His People:

1. God pays attention to the good and honorable things you do. The "book of remembrance" is both Scripture about God and His deeds in the past and is also His knowledge of present deeds. He told each of the 7 churches, "I know your works." [1 Corinthians 15:58]
2. God will fill your life and your eternity with blessings and rewards if you will trust Him, live for Him, and honor His name. [Malachi 3:10; Mark 10:29-30; Romans 15:13; Colossians 3:23-24]
3. The wicked will stand accountable before God, no matter what it looks like they are getting away with today. [Matthew 25:46; 1 Corinthians 4:5]
4. You will be considered by God His treasured possession. [Deuteronomy 7:6; 1 Peter 2:9]
5. Perhaps the greatest of blessings is in what God "spares" His sons and daughters from experiencing. To state it positively, He gives us the greatest and most fulfilled life now and forever. [John 10:10; John 6:47]

How are you living your life?

Is your complaint that "God owes me"?

Or, in overwhelming gratitude do you say, "I owe God everything for His kindness to me."
