



## Study Notes

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### **Lesson 5: Everyone Wants Justice...**

**Malachi 2:17-3:5**

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The Jews of Malachi's time wanted justice...or so they thought. They accused God of being unjust in His treatment of them versus the treatment of those who were outside of the covenant. Read Romans 3:21-26. How are all men justified before God? What demonstrated God's righteousness? We are told two specific characteristics of God in verse 26, regarding the one who has faith in Jesus. Why is this important?

Read Malachi 2:17. What do the people accuse God of doing? Read Isaiah 5:20-21. Based on what we know of God, and His characteristics, is it possible that the people of Malachi's time were correct in what God was doing? How do we know that?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. How are we reconciled to God? Look closely at verse 21. What happened to our sin? Where did the righteousness that we are granted come from? Is it just for us NOT to have to pay for our sin? Why?

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12. What instructions are we given, explicitly, here regarding our enemies? What encouragement do we have? What warning are we given? Knowing this, how does this command line up with the expectation of the Jews that they would crush their foes and reign over them when the Messiah came?

Read Deuteronomy 18:9-14. What activities that are strictly prohibited here in Deuteronomy were the people doing in Malachi 3? What does God decree these activities to be?

Read Psalm 73:1-28. What does the Psalmist say he was jealous of? Describe some of what he saw in the wicked. What was the Psalmist's temporary conclusion, in verse 13? What does God cause to happen to the wicked? (Verse 18ish) How does the Psalmist realize he has acted toward God? What is the Psalmist's conclusion for himself? What does the Psalmist, ultimately, realize about the wicked?

Read 1 Peter 4:16-19. In what should we glorify God? Where does judgment begin? What warning comes with that information? What hope comes with that?

Read Hebrews 12:3-6. What does the writer of Hebrews encourage us not to grow weary of? Why?

As you spend time with God today, ask yourself whether you are prepared to stand before Him when He draws near for judgment. Thank Him for His love that does discipline us and brings us closer to Him.

Read Romans 5:1-5.

What “chain of events” does Paul remind us is necessary to produce hope in us? Why is this hope something we can fully trust in? If you find yourself wondering, today, whether you are actually at peace with God, having been reconciled and brought near to Him as a precious daughter of His through the blood of His Son, talk to God about that.

Read through 1 John and consider yourself, your desires and attitudes and actions in light of that book, and really examine yourself to be sure that you are in the faith. Thank God for the work that He has begun in you, and ask Him to help you to glorify Him in all the sufferings that you endure for His sake.