

March 2nd, 2025

Malachi 3:13-4:6 - How Great is the Salvation of God! (Sermon Transcript)

In 1860, a man by the name of C. T. Studd was born. He was born to a very wealthy family in England. On the surface, a little like he has it all together. He's got so much money he would never have to have worked a day in his life, ever. And he was brilliant.

So much so that he could achieve anything he really wanted to. And on top of that, because this is how it's always the case, he was quite athletic. So athletic that he was one of the top, if not the best, cricket player in all of Europe. He had everything. Money. Wisdom. Physical ability. And yet, he struggled.

with finding purpose in his life. One day, he was listening to a sermon by Hudson Taylor, missionary to China. And in this sermon, he was struck with conviction that chasing after all the things in the world was really meaningless. I mean, he had everything. And yet, he just knew there was nothing worth chasing on this earth.

And so, After a few conversations and in prayer, C. T. Studd left everything behind and went and joined Hudson Taylor in China and said it was the most meaningful work I could have ever done with my life, serving God and proclaiming Jesus to the nations. He wrote this poem. I'm going to read the first stanza for you.

And he was right. Recounting the, the day where he just wrestled with this, and after hearing the sermon, and how the Lord was just stirring in his heart to do something for the Lord's glory in his life. He says, only one life, a few brief years, each with its burdens, hopes, and fears, each with its clays I must fulfill, living for self, or living for his will.

Only one life that will soon be passed, only what's done for Christ will last. As we close out the book of Malachi today, the question I want to ask us is how will we respond to the greatness of God? This has been the theme this whole series. We've looked at the greatness of God's holiness, His faithfulness, His love.

How are we going to respond to it? Are we going to try to live for our own lives and chase after things that are perishing? Are we going to chase after one and live our lives for the one who is eternal? How will you respond to the greatness of God in your life? You only have one life to live. Just one.



And it will soon be over. Life is a vapor.

gone tomorrow. Only what's done for Jesus will last. In our text today we see that there is a distinction between the righteous and the unrighteous, between the one who serves God and the one who does not serve him. The one who has been saved by God through Jesus is a treasured possession, while the one who rejects God is destined for utter destruction.

Let's read. Our text today, beginning in Malachi chapter 3 verse 13, and then we will read the entire rest of the book, ending in chapter 4. Malachi chapter 3 verse 13, it says, Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, How have we spoken against you? 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? And, and now we call the arrogant, blessed evildoers not only prosper, but they put God to the test and they escape. 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. They shall be mine, says the Lord of Hosts. And the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between the one who serves God and the one who does not serve Him.

For behold, The day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all the evildoers will be, will be stubble. The day is coming, shall set them, the day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts. So that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you, You who fear my name the son of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings you shall go go out leaping like calves from the stall and you shall tread down the wicked for they shall they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act says the Lord of Hosts.

Remember the law of my servant Moses the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all of Israel. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.

This is the word of the Lord. Father, open our eyes to behold all the wonderful truths from your word. May all of our life. Be lived in the power of your salvation.



May we be a pleasing aroma to you. Not a disgusting stench. We are eternally thankful for the work of salvation through your son, Jesus. And it's in your name we pray. Amen. Let's revisit verse 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.

This past week I ran across an article that I don't know how it made it into my algorithm but it was there about the California gold rush and now I'm intrigued and it might be the next thing I just read up about. Imagine Taking your whole family and going west to find gold. Horse and buggy in the elements.

it's not just getting on a, in your car and just driving. I mean, it's just unknown wilderness with the hopes of finding gold. And just going west. Let's go. And then you settle in somewhere, it's probably a town close by, and you would go out and be a treasure hunter. And so as you go, you find a stream and you start panning for gold and you hit the jackpot.

Now all of us are like, okay, let's, is there a place out west we can go do that? Probably is what we're thinking. So they, imagine you, you have your family and you find just, you begin to see flakes of gold and then, then you just, it's a lots of it. And you collect pounds and pounds of gold. You you're looking at this and you're like my life's changed forever, we made it.

And so you go back to town, you maybe swing by and you find your wife and the kids and you said, Babe, I didn't go to Disney World back then. You know, we're going, I'm taking you on that trip, I promised you I would take you on, I found it. All this gold. And you go into the, the banker or the, the place in town and you bring it and you're just like, Alright, I'm selling it to you, here you go.

And the guy gets there, and he knows the glass, and he's looking at it, and says, Huh, you got quite a collection here, but it's not gold.

During the California Gold Rush, hundreds of people thought they had hit it rich, only discovered that they had found what we know as pyrite, which is fool's gold. The one who has been Collecting this doesn't see that it's not gold. To the untrained eye, it looks like treasure. But to the one who knows and can see the differentiating qualities, easily knows what is true gold and what is fool's gold.

Verse 18 tells us that you cannot fool God. You cannot fool God. He knows the distinction between the righteous and the unrighteous. You may, sure, you you can fool so many people. You can fool others and make it look like you are super Christian on the outside, but on the inside, your heart is rotten.



You interact with some person in one way, and then when another person enters the room, your whole demeanor changes because you have to look a certain way. Your life is fool's gold. Sure, you can talk a big game in life group. Make it seem that you are something that you're not. Goodness, you can even fool yourself.

Just like the people in Malachi. Who say, God, what? What if? What if we've got it together? Why are you so mad at us? God says, sure. You may look the part, but when you look right at your your heart is wicked and evil and just like the ones who don't belong to me. This is the danger of a heart that has not been transformed by Jesus Christ.

There's a distinction between the righteous and the unrighteous. There's a distinction between those who belong to God and those who don't. God opens our text today by saying, Your words have been hard against me. Like it has been difficult to hear. This whole book, he is just like, Ugh. And now we get to the end and he is done.

He's done. I'm tired of hearing about it, God is saying. And of course, the people respond and how are they going to put their foot in their mouth this time? You're like, how have we spoken against you, God? We're for you. We love you. We're on your side, God. How have we spoken against you?

Over and over again, they have questioned God's character. We love you, God. And God says, no, you don't. We're faithful to you, God. No, you're not.

What have they said? What they're saying is, what if we said that would make you think we're against you? God's response reveals the nature of their heart. Because God, like the jeweler, can see all all the inadequacies, all the, the, the pieces that don't belong, all the sin in our hearts. He looks past any filters that we can put over our lives to fool others.

It's not just that they have spoken against God, their lives, their actions, their hearts are all living against who God is and what he expects from them. So here's God's response in verse 14.

You have said, quote, 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? And now we call the arrogant blessed. evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and escape. It's like God says, what have we said against you? Let me pull out the text message that you sent.



It's right here, read it. This is what you've said. They have asked the question and said aloud, is it even worth serving God? That's not the language of someone who is for God. And you could say, well, maybe, maybe it's a, a season of doubt. Okay. But if you keep going on, they want to be like the arrogant.

They're tired of all the restrictions and they think they're good, but they want to live outside of what God has called for them to do. They even say, what's the profit, meaning that their deep motivation. For following God is only to serve self. This is the danger of religiosity. That we do it for self and not for the glory of the Lord.

What reward do I have for my goodness, God? What reward do I have for serving in kid life? Or singing? What reward do I have for doing all these things for you? And what God's gonna tell us is, The reward is me! It's me. It's not anything about you, it's, you get me for all of eternity.

In other words, what the people in the book of Malachi have said, is God, what, what you really are, you're fool's gold, God. You're not who you say you are. You say you're worthy and glorious, but you're not.

How preposterous of them, of us, to consider that God is not worthy of all glory and honor and praise. And Malachi is going to show us the distinction between the righteous and the unrighteous. Let's look at the unrighteous. Those who are unrighteous don't find God worthy. They don't see the value or profit in serving God.

They don't see the value or profit or, or following His good commands that we know are not burdensome.

They look at their lives and say, we've got it together. And yet we're not blessed. The arrogant people, they're the blessed ones. I want I want to be like them. Why can't we have their blessings? They prosper. They put God to the test and they survive. I mean we're they we're walking as in mourning, meaning they're walking around saying, we're sorry, God, we're doing everything you want us to do, and yet nothing changes, but God is going to reveal to them.

The issue is not in what they're doing. It's the issue is in their being. They do not belong to him. They are unrighteous and they don't find God worthy. See, the prophet that they're looking for is all self. Self focused and not the glorious nature of God. So often we look for the worth in our own works.

Or even in our own material items. And we see this in these two verses. We can easily fall into the trap of these people as well. We put too much emphasis on our spiritual doing.



This is how I look at it. We're going to get a good laugh out of the kids here, because I didn't expect them to be in here. Okay. As if we focus so much on the, the the do. What it produces is doo doo. All right. This is how I think of it. If it's always doing. God says you're.

Your work is like this, it's like dung, it's like doo doo. So the focus always should be on, on what Christ has done and who He has made us. We put too much emphasis on our spiritual doing.

Let me give some application here. We're adjusting here on the fly. I haven't looked at anything inappropriate in weeks. Look at what I've done here, is what, how we phrase that. That's great, but a blind man who can't look at anything inappropriate can still have less than his heart. I have a great voice and can sing and write worship music.

Awesome. The devil was a musician. I have a great knowledge of the Bible and can teach it. That's wonderful. But the people who were instrumental in sentencing Jesus to death, the Pharisees, most likely had the first five books of the Old Testament memorized. And yet, Jesus looks at them and says, you're a whitewashed tomb.

In Matthew 23, 27 through 28, woe to you. Woe is not a good word here. It's a fun English word for us, but it's it's a word of condemnation. You better check your heart right now because you're not in a good spot is what Jesus is saying. Scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. I love this side of Jesus, okay?

Like, but also it's like, all right, if I'm not careful I don't want these words being said to me. This is just helpful. For you are like whitewashed tombs which outwardly appear beautiful but within are full of dead people's bones and all unclean, uncleanness. So you also, Outwardly, appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

And this is what God is saying to the people in Malachi. Everything may look good on the outside, but the inside is dead. It's dead. They say, we've obeyed your charge. We've done what you want us to do. Because they're so focused on their doing that they're not focused on who God is and what He does. And it's the danger, if we put so much emphasis on what we do,

there comes a point in our lives when we, something happens. You lose a loved one, or your marriage becomes in shambles, or you're dealing with something with your kids, or you lose your job, and you look up and say, what's the deal, God? I've served you, I've done all these things, where's the reward here?



Where's the reward?

The people of Malachi even put too much value on earthly goods.

They long to be like the arrogant, because they're blessed. You just don't look at someone and say, man, there's jealousy there. Like, I wish I was like them, at least they got, you everything ready. They can retire, they can do this. They don't have to sit and listen to sermons on giving. They just get to keep it all.

You see the posture of that heart is jealousy for what is wicked and against God. They become consumed for money or jobs. And God's like, this is what I have against you. This is how you've spoken against me. You have not seen how great and worthy I am. And Jesus says in Matthew 6, 19 through 21, Don't lay up treasure, don't lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The hearts of the people of Malachi did not treasure God. Revealing that their heart was unrighteous. But then we get to chapter 4. And we see something, sorry, in verse 16. Almost to chapter 4, verse 16. We see something that we have not seen throughout this entire book. There's actually a positive statement regarding people.

As this book is being, confronting the wickedness of the people. There is a remnant of people who generally fear the Lord. They love God. God's promised, I will always preserve a remnant of my people. The people as a whole, they may just say they're, they're, in this case Israelites and they belong to me, but they don't, they are not doing what I've commanded them to do.

The covenant's been broken. These people over here though, they long for me. They fear me. There's an awe and reverence. Those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. Those who belong to God, who truly belong to God, find Him to be glorious. Throughout the Old Testament, especially in the Minor Prophets, this is what it comes down to.

The people that were unrighteous were consumed by self. The people who are righteous were consumed by God. They were just want more of Him and long for Him and had a great faith in Him that He would do as He promised. And this was a genuine reaction that they genuinely feared who God is. It's not a scary, like, oh, God's like the boogeyman.



It's a, wow, you're awesome, but at the same time, Scripture says don't fear the one. Who can put, who can kill you? Fear the one who can cast you into utter darkness. Jesus says that there is a healthy fear that's dependent on the greatness of who God is. These people were genuinely fearing the Lord in awe and and in reverence for him.

Here's why. You wanna know how I know this? 'cause they were talking to other people about it this past week, friend of mine. Uh, we were, we were having dinner, and, uh, we were watching a basketball game, and, uh, a couple of us were there watching the basketball game, and he's a Lakers fan. So we were giving him a hard time, and, we were talking about, then we, then the conversation shifted to the Jaguars, which gets really awkward.

It's like, man, okay, it's me. So then I asked him, like, because he lives in Tennessee, I was like, who's your favorite football team? We said the Cowboys. I was like, okay as a sports fan You're like you can't be a Lakers fan a Cowboys fan. So my response was does that mean you're a Yankees baseball fan? Okay, cuz that's how it works.

If you meet a Lakers and Cowboys fan, they're probably Yankees fan because those anyways Keep going And he said no, I'm not a Yankees fan. I'm a Braves fan Which I've never heard him say this and I'm thinking my church hears this twice a week, okay Like, I've never heard him say he's a Braves fan. He's never worn a Braves hat.

I even went back and looked at Facebook, because I'm like, I don't even believe it. Here's, here's what I'm saying. If you love something, you're gonna talk about it. Like, I love talking about my wife, my kids, the church, the Braves, because I love these things. Here, in Malachi chapter 3 verse 16, you can tell they love the Lord because they're talking about Him.

Which means it's a give us pause if someone says they belong to Jesus but they never talk about Him.

They never talk about what they're learning about Him. They never talk about who He is. If we generally have been transformed by Jesus, would we not want to talk about him? That doesn't mean we're talking about him all the time. When you're at lunch and afterwards and you're going out and they don't ever talk about Jesus or they don't talk about Jesus at lunch, that doesn't mean they're bad.

We have work, we have families, there's other things to talk about. Jesus and his disciples talked about things probably other than Jesus. But if a whole of life and it's just never about Jesus. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. These people loved God. They esteemed His name, it says.



They saw how wonderful and glorious God is. This is the overflow, not of what they had done. This is the overflow of what God had done in them. How does someone become Up to a point in their life where they find God glorious and worthy and awesome and reverent and mighty and gracious. How does someone get to this point?

Because God has done a miraculous, transforming, saving work in their life. I did not like talking about Jesus until Jesus changed my life. Is this your story? Like, I wasn't, it wasn't a thing and then Jesus changed my life and I'm like, listen he's awesome. That he loves me. God has made us his treasured possession who will remain with him forever.

This is life changing. God says they will be mine.

The salvation that we have through Jesus has accomplished so much, more than we could even come close to doing on our own. It's not about what we have done, it's about what Christ has done. Titus 2, 11 through 14. Our church verse. For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

This is a transformation, transforming work of grace. Waiting for our blessed hope. The appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us, to purchase us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own own possession, who are zealous for good works.

God has made us his own. He purchased us by the blood of Jesus. This is the salvation that transforms our hearts to look up and see and behold how worthy God is.

The reality is at times, though, we, our eyes can look downward. Like, things happen. And the Lord uses these things, I believe, to help draw our eyes back to Him.

Count it all joy when you fall into various trials. God's working patience in you. This is why we're working through the armor of God. Our battle is not with flesh and blood. There is spiritual warfare. And through life, God is just longing for us to look up and see and behold. His greatness and to remind us that we belong to him.

He even says, look, there's a book of remembrance. Your name's in it. I'm not forgetting who you are. Have you ever gone through your phone? This past week, I had so many phone numbers to my phone. And I'm going through as I'm typing



them in. And I came across a few names that I'm like, I literally have no idea who this person is.

Do you have that issue in your? You go through, I'm like, I I couldn't put their face, you could put two people in there and I'm like, I don't know who they, you line them up. I go through and I got information because this is what I had to do. I put it like the company they work for, how I know them.

And I looked at that and I'm like, I still don't know who you are. Pardon me. He's like, I want to pull it. I never text them. I'm like, I don't know who this is, but his name's in my phone. Here's the. We're. God doesn't do this. The names in His book of remembrance, He knows exactly who they are. He knows everything about us.

He loves us because He's saying, this person belongs to me. You know who I don't forget? The people in my favorites list on my phone. You got a list of favorites? Husbands, your wife should be number one on the favorites list. Let me just put that right there. Okay, I've got Julie, I got my parents, I got Julie's parents.

I'm not gonna tell you the rest of it, alright? Okay, Pastor Ben. These are the people that can get to me at any moment. They can get past that do not disturb wall. If you belong to God, you are on God's favorites list. God doesn't put a wall up and say, Man, access only between 9 to 5 please. It's wide open access through Jesus Christ.

You belong to God. He never forgets you. He never loses track of you. He purchased you. You're His prized possession. You belong to Him. Shouldn't that, that, just that alone say, God, you are worthy. I have trouble, if you, I you have multiple kids. You start going through the list of names. I mean, we can't even keep track of the people we love.

God does it. He always remembers because you belong to him through the blood of Jesus Christ. What does God's salvation through Jesus bring us? What I love about Malachi is it's giving us a glimpse of what God's gonna do. In Jesus, we have a relationship with God. We have a relationship with God. This is a prized possession.

This is not just some distant thing in a closet. This is displayed, something to talk about. It is a relationship with God. They will be mine, God says in verse 17.

The only way to have that relationship with God is through Jesus.

If you are not a believer, If Christ has never transformed your heart, if you've never repented of your sin and by faith believed in the sufficient and finished work of



Jesus, the scripture tells us that we're actually enemies to God, but through Jesus, we're family.

Because of Christ, we live in this relationship with God. I think many of us need to be reminded God hasn't forgotten you.

Mamas, He sees your tired soul.

He sees the heartbreak that you go through every day. He sees your worries and your concerns. Mamas, God hasn't forgotten about you.

Those of you that are retired, your family doesn't live close by, God hasn't forgotten about you either. Our church loves you, too. Not as much as God does, but you're not forgotten. He loves you. You belong to him. I know there's several of you. I'm looking around the room now and I see health issues.

Uncertain health issues. Health issues that the doctors are trying to figure out. God has not forgotten you. He knows you. If you belong to Him, you are His. You are His. This is a deep and loving relationship we have with God. In Jesus, we are kept secure. Verse 17, God says, They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts.

And that day when I make up my treasured position, and I will spare them, as a man spares his son who serves him. We don't throw away the things we value and treasure. If we belong to God and have been purchased by his blood, the blood of his son Jesus, we are spared from his wrath. We are spared from the utter destruction that God will eventually say is to come here in this passage, we are kept secure, locked up.

Nothing can take us out of the Father's hands, Jesus says. You're kept secure. And Jesus, we have a new identity. What God is telling his people throughout the Old Testament in this, you are my treasured possession. This is who you are. This is who you are. Throughout the New Testament, we're going to see this language of, We are in Christ.

We are in Christ. We belong to Him. This is who we are. The focus is on who we are in Christ, not what we have done for Christ. And how easy it is to put our identity in our work. If I don't have this job, I've lost my identity. No, Christian, you're kept secure. In Christ, your identity cannot be taken away.

It is secured. Jobs change. Families change. Money changes.



Jesus never does, and our identity in Him never changes. Maybe we place that identity in our personality, or any sort of popularity we may have, or in our work, or in our family.

And yet what happens is life just moves on. The kids leave the house. They have kids of their own. Life moves fast. It's fleeting. We're gonna, we're working jobs now that we won't work at some point in the future. Lord willing, we get to retire one day. All right, those of you that are retired, I, this is, I, more and more I'm jealous, okay?

Not gonna lie. But then I talk to you and I'm like, well, these unknown health issues, I don't know, but I might trade them, I don't know. Do you see what I'm saying here? We place a lot of our identity in who we are and things that won't last forever. In Jesus, we are safe and secure and we are his treasured possession for all of eternity.

In Jesus, we have been healed by his righteousness. Alright, let's jump to Isaiah chapter 4 verse 2 quickly. I love this verse because we're going to get a picture of things to come for the people of Malachi. Verse 1, Behold, a day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the arrogant and all the evildoers will be stubble.

In other words, all the people you want to be like, it's not going to, it's not going to be good for them. The day is coming. That day, the day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of Hosts, so that it will be, that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the Son of Righteousness shall rise.

Now here's what I think is really cool about this. I don't think this is talking about the big orange globe in the sky. I think there's a Son of Righteousness that's gonna rise soon, according to Scripture. And that Son is the Son of God. Who is fully righteous and will conquer death and sin when he rises out of the grave.

With healing in its wings. See the righteousness of Jesus heals us from our sin, death, sickness. Only Jesus can. And if you are in Jesus, you have been saved by his righteousness. Brings healing in his wings. Meaning we need Jesus in our continual fight against sin. Isaiah 53, 5, He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities.

Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. Jesus, the Son of Righteousness, heals us! In Jesus, we have an extravagant joy. They'll be like the calves leaping. Have you ever seen a calf leap? It looks weird. I mean, it's just, because they don't care what people think.



The older we get, the more we're like, ooh, I hope they don't see me, like, I'm going to raise my hand over here and worship. I hope, man, lift those hands up. Enjoy. Jesus has saved us. You know who doesn't care? This is why Jesus says, with childlike faith. Man, these kids, the kids I love, I hope you always sing for the Lord, loud.

Who cares what other people think? We're praising Jesus, the one who loves us and died for us. Man, I want to walk around leaping like a calf out of a stall in joy of what the Lord has done.

In Jesus, we have an extravagant joy. And Jesus, we have a victorious hope. We see at the end of this in verse three, this treading down of the wicked, that we're a part of God's army, and one day this is, we're going to see that we are gospel champions as we say as a church, that the victory is secure in Jesus Christ.

It's all possible because of Jesus. What Malachi is reminded us of is that God's not done. This is not a last chance, people. God's not done. God is still at work bringing renewal to His people. He is still at work right now bringing renewal to His people. He is still changing lives. At the end of chapter 4,

after we see the Son of Righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings, go out leaping like calves from the stall. You should tread down the wicked on that day when I act, says the Lord. Then we kind of transition to the end of this book. It says, Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and the rules I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Behold, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the great and awesome day of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction. This is a reference that Jesus is the greater Moses.

He's the greater prophets. He's better than Elijah. He did everything perfectly. He kept the law perfectly. He fulfilled the prophecies laid out by the prophets. And God is saying, don't forget Moses. Don't forget Elijah. Because I got something better coming. And here's what I love about this book. If you hold out your Bible, if you've got a copy of your Bible.

I love how this is laid out in mine. Because what is taking place is God is saying, there's coming a day soon when hearts are going to be changed and made new, and there's a new covenant coming. Because when the book of Malachi closes, there's a new testament coming, fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Why do we look at a book like Malachi to see the greatness of God?



Because for them, it was an uncertainty. They struggled with this, a lot of them. But for those who were righteous, by faith, they believed that God is going to do what He said He was going to do, and He does it through Jesus Christ. And He is not done doing a renewal work in lives of sinners and in lives of His people.

Because Jesus has yet to return, but He's coming back one day. Malachi tells us this, that this is an already, but not yet, God's working, but Jesus is coming back and on that day there will be a distinction between the righteous and the unrighteous. And the unrighteous will be cast into a, an oven and the righteous will be ushered in.

That's when I think we'll see what leaping like calves out of a stall looks like. When we walk through the gates of heaven into the throne room of God, I'm not going to care one bit what people think about me because Jesus is right there! This is the hope that we have in Christ. This renewal work that He's doing in us.

Will we behold His greatness? We either will now, or in the future. You want to know how they test if something is true gold or real gold? They test pyrite and they test gold, because sometimes it's actually really hard to see.

They often use fire.

And when you strike it, if you take a piece of gold and strike it, you know what it produces there? Gold. Pyrite produces blackness.

If your life looks like gold,

and when you strike your heart, it produces sin and blackness. Your life is fool's gold. There is this distinction between the righteous and the unrighteous, and the distinction is made through the salvation of Jesus Christ alone. So we behold the greatness of God. Proclaiming that our God sits on the throne.

Come, let us adore Him. Behold our King. Nothing else compares.

We sing these songs because they're the reality of our hearts. But if it's not,

then I invite you to believe on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And look and behold, the greatness of Jesus.

The glory of the good news of the gospel is that Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15, I remind you brothers of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and which you stand and by which you are being saved if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. That by the grace of God, God is still doing this



renewal work in the lives of His people, making us more and more representative of the prized possession that He knows that we are to Him.

As we leave here, let's behold the greatness of the God who loved us and sent His Son for us and healed us with His righteousness.

