

Present it now unto thy governor. Mal. 1 : 8 (R.V.)

Malachi's special work was in stirring up the priesthood to their duty, to the proper maintenance of the Temple services. They were very careless of these, and treated their holy duties with great contempt. The special method adopted seems to have been in the presentation of the blind, the lame, and sick on the altar; while the healthy and whole were reserved for private use. "The table of the Lord was polluted, and his meat contemptible." Such unconcealed irreverence and greed could not pass unrebuked. They are asked to compare their service to God with their service to man; their sacrifices in the Temple with their gifts before their governors and rulers. Would these be pleased, and accept the gift, if they were treated in the same way as God was?

Professing Christians might sometimes be addressed in the same terms. When they slip a copper coin into the collecting-bag, which they would not think of offering to the butler in a friend's house; when they give more to the revenue officer than to the Church or poor; when they give to the Lord's work whatever they can spare without loss, and, indeed, are glad to be rid of; whenever they spend more time and strength on public duties than on the calls of Christianity--at such times we might fairly bid them present it to their governor.

In 10th verse (R.V.) God is heard asking for someone to close the doors of the Temple. He would rather this than be mocked by such heartless rites. It was as though He would rather that no prayers were offered, no services maintained, no holy hymn sung--than that there should be such perfunctory and heartless worship. Let us be very careful against this spirit in our daily devotions!

你獻給你的省長。 瑪一8

瑪拉基的特殊事工就是激勵祭司盡其職責，正確地維持聖殿的事奉。祭司們對這些漠不關心，極其輕看他們神聖的職分。他們所採用的特殊方法，就如同把瞎眼的、癱腿的、和有病的獻在壇上，而健全的卻留下來自己享用。「耶和華的桌子是污穢的，其上的食物是可藐視的。(12節)」祭司如此毫不掩飾的不敬和貪婪，必不能逃避譴責。先知要求祭司將他們對神的事奉與對人的服事作比較，他們在聖殿獻的祭物與他們在省長和首領面前獻的禮物作比較。如果省長和首領所得到的待遇，與神所得到的一樣是一些殘疾的，他們會喜悅並收下所獻的禮物嗎？

宣稱是基督徒的，有時可能聽到類似這裡先知所說的話。他們把一枚銅幣塞進奉獻袋，但他們不會只把這點錢給朋友家裡的僕人作為賞錢的；當他們給稅務官員的，比給教會或窮人的還要多時；當他們為耶和華的事工，奉獻一些他們不再需要的東西，這些東西確實是他們很高興能擺脫的時；每當他們在公共職責上，比在教會機構的呼召上，花費更多的時間和精力時——這時候我們完全可以請他們把「一枚銅幣、想擺脫的東西等」獻給他們的省長。

在第10節，神要求有一個祭司去關上殿門。祂寧可這樣，也不要被冷酷的禮儀所愚弄。就像祂寧可沒有人獻上禱告，沒有人服事，沒有人唱詩——也不要敷衍冷淡的敬拜。但願我們在每日的靈修中，十分小心不要有這樣的靈！

He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and did turn many away from iniquity. Mal. 2 : 6.

These inspiring words, especially the last clause, might well hang in the secret chamber of every servant of God. They were specially prized by the sainted R. M. McCheyne, whose life was a beautiful exemplar of their meaning. You will notice that covenant dates back to the righteous zeal of Phinehas for the honour of God (Num. 25). How well God remembers such things, and writes them in ineffaceable characters on the tablets of his memory! But what a contrast between that noble ancestry and the degenerate successors of Malachi's days!

Do you want to turn many away from iniquity? You must walk with God, hourly, constantly, in blessed and intimate fellowship, learning from Him who you are to approach, what line you are to follow in dealing with them, and the message you are to deliver. You must expect to come into collision with them: they are coming in one direction, whilst God and you will be going in just the reverse. But go on walking with God; fear his fear; know the terror of losing his companionship, even for a moment; be perfectly transparent in speech and life; let your lips be weighted with his messages only. The result will more than compensate. Yours will be the abundant life, and yours the peace which is unspeakable; yours will be the uprightness of soul which carries the divine radiance on its face, and yours the joy in arresting the way of transgressors and sinners.

Plead this promise: "Lord, let me be used to turn many away from iniquity," and notice that this most blessed result will accrue much less from what you say than from what you are. It was Levi's walk and converse with God, more even than his words, that produced this wholesale reformation.

他以平安和正直與我同行，使多人回頭離開罪孽。 瑪二6

這些話鼓舞人心，尤其是最後一句，很有理由就掛在每個神僕人的密室裡。這些話特別受德高的馬欽尼[註]珍視，他的生命就是這句話意義的美好例證。你會注意到與利未所立之約的日期(4節)，追溯到非尼哈為神的尊榮有公義忌邪的心(民廿五10-13)。神何等清楚地記得這些事情，並用不可磨滅的文字寫在祂記憶版上！那位高貴的先祖非尼哈，與瑪拉基時期墮落的繼承者(祭司們)，兩者之間的對比何等大啊！

你想要使許多人回頭離開罪孽嗎？你必須與神同行(6節)，經常不斷地在蒙福親密的交通中，從祂學習應該去接近什麼人，該循哪條路與他們交往，該傳遞什麼信息。你必須預期和他們有衝突：他們從一個方向來，而神和你往相反的方向走。但你要繼續與神同行；存敬畏的心敬畏祂(5節)；知道失去祂的陪伴是何等可怕，即使只是片刻；在說話和生活上完全的透明；讓你的口只承載祂的信息。結果會比應得的報酬更多。你的生命必定豐盛，你的平安無法形容；你的靈魂必然正直(6節)，臉上帶著神聖的光輝，你必然有阻止人犯罪的喜樂。

你要懇求這個應許：「主啊，使用我，使多人回頭離開罪孽。」要注意這最蒙福的結果，是從「你所是的」產生，勝過「你所說的」。利未人非尼哈與神同行交談，勝過他的言語，這樣的同行並與神交談產生這樣大規模的改正(民廿五11)。

[註] 馬欽尼Robert Murray McCheyne, 1813-1843, 蘇格蘭教會牧師。1836年按立封牧。雖身體多病，但由於每日靈修、祈禱、讀經、走訪信徒、預備講道，不辭辛勞，教會工作日益興旺。為蘇格蘭家喻戶曉的良牧。過世時年僅30歲。

He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver. Mal. 3: 3

If you are just now in the fire, dear soul, be of good cheer--it shows at least that you are silver, and that you are capable of performing more acceptable service in God's holy Temple. If it were not so, God would not take so much pains. He chastens those whom He loves, and prunes the branches that are already bearing fruit. What a comfort it is that He surrenders this work to no other hands than his own. He may give his angels charge concerning us when we are in danger; but He keeps our purification beneath his special superintendence.

But notice that He sits. What patience is here! However many years thou mayest have to lie on that couch, He will sit beside thee. The nurses will go off duty, but He never. Love may faint and be weary, and nod into light slumbers; but He never slumbers nor sleeps. Those that were most frequent in attendances may drop off; but He will sit, night and day--when the soul is lonely, and when the room is filled with cheery voices; when the pain is almost unbearable--reach out the hand, you will touch his; breathe the softest sigh, He will answer, "I am here."

And the process will be continued until the scum has passed away, with its rebellion and murmuring, and his dear face shines, sweetly mirrored in its every outline and lineament. Then the fires will die down, and He will bid thee arise to reap the full reward. God is set on reviving the better, holier past, to which some of us revert with tender interest. "It was better with me then than now," we sometimes say. But the tender grace of those days that are dead will come again to the soul, who yields to God's refining. "The offering of Judah and Jerusalem shall be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old."

祂... 必潔淨利未人，熬煉他們像金銀一樣。 瑪三3

親愛的人啊，如果你現在正在火中，不要灰心喪志 — 至少這表明你是銀子，你能够在神的聖殿執行更蒙悅納的事奉。如果不是這樣，神就不會費這麼多苦心。祂管教祂所愛的(來十二6)，並修剪那結果子的枝子(約十五2)。祂沒有將這工作交付別人，而是親手來做，這是一個多麼大的安慰。祂可以吩咐祂的天使，在我們遇到危險的時候關照我們；但祂卻把「潔淨我們」的工作，放在祂的特別監管之下。

但是請注意祂坐下(3節)。多麼有耐心！無論多少年你可能不得不躺臥病榻上，祂必坐在你身邊。護士們會下班，但祂從不下班。人的愛心可能會衰弱疲倦，打盹瞌睡；但祂從不打盹，也不睡覺(詩一二一4)。那些最常來照顧的人可能會減少，但祂必坐下，不分晝夜 — 當人寂寞的時候，當房間充滿歡笑聲的時候；當痛苦幾乎無法忍受的時候 — 伸出你的手，你必觸摸到祂的手；你發出最輕微的歎息，祂必回答：「我在這裡。(賽五十八9)」

熬煉金銀的過程必定持續，直到叛逆和抱怨的浮渣除去，直到反映祂可愛面容上每個輪廓和特徵。那時火將熄滅，祂會吩咐你起來，領取那完全的獎賞。神決心恢復那更好、更聖潔的過去，那是我們當中有些人深願歸回的光景。有時我們說：「我那時的光景比如今還好。(何二7)」但是那已逝去時日的親切恩典，必再回到那順服神熬煉的人身上。「猶大和耶路撒冷所獻的供物，必蒙耶和華悅納，彷彿古時之日。(4節)」

The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings. Mal. 4: 2

At the end of the Old Testament it is meet that the sun should break out. The morning that broke on Paradise was clear enough. It was without clouds. But the sky soon became darkened, and at last veiled, with only here and there a chink of blue sky left. All through the dark succeeding centuries there have been gleams of sunshine to let men know that the sun was shining still. Every precious promise, every solemn type, every holy life, that was bathed in supernatural beauty, was like a shining forth of the sun through the bars of human darkness and sin. But evidently more was in store than Old Testament saints had dreamed; and the time was coming when the reign of type, symbol, and parable, would be succeeded by the clear vision of the face of God.

We live in the days of open vision. Let us go forth and exult. We are to rejoice in every good thing He gives us. As the young calves of the early spring manifest their exuberant life in their caperings and gambols in the pastures, so let us give expression to our joy. Exult because of the clear shining of God's love; exult because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth; exult because He is coming again, as surely as He came once. Wake up, my soul, take psaltery and harp, and sing. The Bridegroom is at hand. Hark! are those his chariot wheels reverberating through the air? Even so! Lord Jesus, come quickly!

必有公義的日頭出現。其光線有醫治之能。 瑪四2

在舊約的末了提到日頭必出現，乃是合宜的。早晨在伊甸園破曉，天空晴朗，萬里無雲。但是晴空很快變暗，最後被遮蔽，只剩下一小片藍天在這裡那裡。隨著而來許多黑暗世紀，一直有些微光，讓人們知道太陽仍然照耀。每個寶貴的應許，每個莊嚴的預表，每個神聖的生命，都充滿神的美麗；就像太陽發出的光，穿過人類的黑暗與罪的障礙。但所蘊藏的豐富，顯然比舊約聖徒夢想的還要多；時候將到，那時神清晰可見的面容，就要接續預表、表號、比喻的時代。

我們活在一個視野開闊的年代。讓我們走出去，歡欣跳躍。我們要為祂所賜的每個美好的事物歡喜。像初春的牛犢顯出旺盛的生命力，在草地上蹦跳嬉戲，讓我們也表達我們的喜悅。歡喜跳躍，因為神的愛清晰明亮；歡喜跳躍，因為黑暗已經過去，現今真光照耀；歡欣跳躍，因祂要再來，就如祂曾經來過那樣確定。醒來吧，我的心啊，鼓瑟彈琴，並且歌唱。新郎即將來到。聽哪！那是祂的車輦聲在空中迴蕩嗎？即使如此！主耶穌啊，願你快來(啟廿二20)！