

BEAUTYFROMCHAOS



A REFINING FIRE: Malachi 2:17-3:6

SHARINGSTORIES

Christmas. For many if not all of us, this is an extremely distracting time of year. We feel like we are supposed to be setting aside special and increased time with God. We wind up feeling like failures when we are not as successful doing so as we would like. Of course, the reality is we face these same distractions year round. We are called to spend the same amount of time with God at all times. It is true Christmas often intensifies these feelings, and the dangers of distraction are fully revealed. Fortunately, this circumstance presents us with an opportunity to be honest with ourselves and God about our lives.

*What are the sources of your most significant distractions? What desires are behind them?
What is it about this time of year that presents the biggest challenge(s) to you?
How do you reconcile celebrating the Christmas holiday with celebrating Christ's birthday?*

DIGGINGIN

Read the last verse of chapter 2 and the first six verses of chapter 3.

*Why did the Israelite's not understand God's weariness? How did they miss it?
When have you found yourself asking the same kind of questions? Describe the situation.
What promises does God make to us in these verses? What is He offering us?*

GOINGDEEPER

Chris Wilson read a John Eldridge quote during a video presentation Sunday morning. Eldridge talked about the way God rescues us from the chaos of desires and distractions by turning our hearts toward God. Malachi shows us the way God uses his refining fire to accomplish this.

*When have you endured the refining fire of God? What did He teach you during this time?
What area(s) of your life are in need of refinement today? How are you resisting God's fire?
Why do we so resist the fire when we know it will make us holy and bring us closer to Him?*

PRAYER

Spend this time discerning how best pray for one another. Praise God for one specific item and petition Him for one request on their behalf.

This Sunday was a great time for TCBC. Hearts were challenged, encouraged, and redirected toward the Father. Pray that God would continue working in our lives this week.

REFLECTION

What one idea has the Spirit impressed on your mind and heart from this passage?

MALACHI BEAUTYFROMCHAOS