

Formulas or Fear?
Malachi 3:13-18
Beauty from Chaos, 7
Dr. Ted Wueste

The promises of God can lead to cynicism ... 3:13-15

- We might say: "serving God is useless."
- We might say: "God is unnecessary if I want to prosper."

The problem ...

- ... lifeless worship
- ... formula theology

The promises of God should lead to fear... 3:16-18

- Nothing escapes His notice ...
We do everything for Him, knowing that He will remember.
- Anyone who trusts Him becomes His possession ...
We let go of self-care, knowing that He will provide.
- Everything will be made right ...
We invest generously,, knowing that He will reward.

MAKING THIS REAL IN MY LIFE ...

Quotes:

"The matter is quite simple. The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly. Take any words in the New Testament and forget everything except pledging yourself to act accordingly. My God, you will say, if I do that my whole life will be ruined. How would I get on in the world?" Soren Kierkegaard

COMING UP

Sunday December 23: Malachi 4:1-6