

God's Book Shelf Pt. 1 (Rev. 20:12)

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, April 30th

Most of us have “libraries” or “book shelves” where we keep volumes that are interesting or important to us. (*Photo Albums, scrapbooks, Dairies, Journals, etc.*) God’s “book shelf” is important to Him, because we’re important to Him. Some of these “books” contain information that will help determine our destinies in time and eternity. (See Rev. 20:12)

While the Bible doesn’t reveal everything, (Deut. 29:29) it does reveal a great deal that God intends for us to know; Including some of the “books” in God’s Library.

1. The Book Of Disappointments. (tears) Ps 56:8

“Thou tellest (sāpar: inscribe) my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?”

A. God is aware of every detail of our lives.

- 1) Hagar the slave *“Thou God seest me”* Gen 16:13
- 2) The fall of sparrows. Mt 10:29-31 *“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”*

B. He’s promised to “never leave us” Heb. 13:5

Isaiah 43:2 *“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee...”*

- 1) Jesus walked through the storm to get to the disciples. *“Wherefore did ye doubt”* Mt 14:31
- 2) Jesus walked with the three Hebrews in the fire. (Daniel 3:24,25)

C. Faith grows deepest through pain and disappointment. Jms 1:2-5; Is. 53:3

Mt 26:39 *“he fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou”*

Tears are a language, God understands! Heb. 4:11,12; 5:7-9

2. The Book Of “Decisions” (Fear: yare’: reverence, honor. Mal. 3:16,17

“book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.”

A. Malachi 3 Context:

- 1) God’s eventually going to return to Earth. Vs 1-2
- 2) He seeks to “refine” and “prepare” his people. 2-6
- 3) Most tend to “resist” Him and even “rob” Him. 7-9
- 4) He encourages us to trust, obey, and “prove” Him. 10-12
- 5) Many refuse and grow critical of God. 13-15: *“It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance?”*
- 6) Those who choose to trust and obey... *“speak often one to another. And the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him, for them that feared the Lord and thought upon His name.*

B. We are accountable for our words!

- 1) The “comforting” words. Mal. 3:16; Eph. 4:15
- 2) The “critical” words. 3 John 1:9-10; Eph. 4:31,32
- 3) The “Careless” (thoughtless) words.
 - a) They can be revolting!
 - b) They’re always revealing! Mt. 12:34 *“out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”*
Mt 12:35-37 *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, (ar-gos‘: lazy, useless) they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”*

C. Our Words have great power! Pr 18:21 *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”*

*Death: maw'-veth: Death, Pestilence, **RUIN!** Life: hay: Life, Freshness, Strength*
Are your words building or destroying? Ro. 14:19 *“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”*

In light of this we need to be more “intentional” with our words. Col. 4:6

‘Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man’

We should learn to “season” our words, in case we have to eat them later!

Conclusion: Malachi 3 records two types of “God’s” children.

- 1) Those who act as if *“It’s vain to serve the Lord.”* (Vs 14) Resisted God’s “refining”, sacrifice and service.
- 2) *“They that feared the Lord”* Vs 16 Served God, and submitted to his “refining”.
Vs 17 *“and They shall be mine, saith the LORD of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels.”*

Segullâ: Peculiar Treasure!

Application:

- If you had the opportunity to get a “glimpse” of God’s “diary” of your “Travels, Tears, and Tongue”; What would you see?
- Which of the two groups addressed in Malachi 3 best represents your story?
From God’s perspective, would your story describe a:
 - 1) Compromising and Critical child of God?
 - 2) Committed and Consecrated child of God?

While we can’t “rewrite” old Chapters, we can be more intentional about how we use our “tears” (heartaches) and “tongues” from this point so that the story can end well.

How do you want your story to end? (Ps. 16:11)