

THE PRIORITY OF WORSHIP, Part I

Malachi 1:6-14

Introduction:

Malachi, the prophet, or messenger, comes to the Israelites after returning from exile and the temple had been rebuilt, and he addresses things in the covenant community life that are important and that needed to be addressed. Many of the same things need to be addressed in our culture and in the church today.

In this section, Malachi addresses the people's worship of God. The Israelites return from Babylon, they rebuild the temple, their worship is ready to go, they begin offering sacrifices, doing everything to please God – but He isn't pleased. They were shocked at this.

If we understand the worship of God, then we must understand its priority. We will look at some principles for our worship of God. As we gain a better understanding of the priority of our worship, our worship experience with the true and living God can be transformed.

PRINCIPLES OF WORSHIP:

I. THE PRIORITY OF OUR WORSHIP

John 4:23 *"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."*

II. THE PURPOSE OF OUR WORSHIP

Psalm 29:1-2 *"Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness."*

III. THE FORM OF OUR WORSHIP

Resources: *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*, Joyce G. Baldwin; *Systematic Theology*, L. Berkhof; *Calvin's Commentaries: Vol. XV*, John Calvin; *Worship by the Book*, D.A. Carson; *Matthew Henry's Commentary, Vol 4*, Matthew Henry; *The New Worship*, Barry Liesch