

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Malachi 2:6-9**.
- B. Treachery is a false appearance of safety or reliability. It is a betrayal of trust, faith, or allegiance. An act of treason.
- C. The Levitical priests of Malachi's day were committing treason toward God.
- D. Our lesson today is to examine the problems these people were having and make a NT application. This can be done because all Xians are priests in the new covenant (1Pet. 2:5,9).

I. GOD WAS DISPLEASED.

- A. See Mal. 2:1-5.
- B. Malachi denounces the priesthood and tells them' what "God is going to do if they do not repent.
- C. They will be unclean and the sacrifices they offer will be unclean.
- D. The covenant was to be something that was taken in reverence. It was to promote reverence for God Himself.
- E. God said that they were doing just the opposite of what was to be done (Mal. 2:8,9).

II. WHAT THE PRIESTS WERE TO DO AND BE.

- A. See Mal. 2:6-7.
- B. Six things that God desires of a priest:
 - 1. True instruction was to be found in his mouth.
 - 2. Walked with God in peace. '
 - 3. Turn many back from iniquity.
 - 4. Lips should preserve knowledge.
 - 5. People should seek instruction from his mouth.
 - 6. Be a messenger of the Lord.
- C. Let's take a look at each of these in a NT context.

III. THE NEW TESTAMENT PRIEST (according to Mal. 2:6,7).

- A. First, true instruction was in his mouth.
Christians are to watch what they say. When they speak it should always be acceptable to God (Eph. 4:29; 1Pet. 4:11; 2Tim. 4:1-4).
- B. Second, walks with God in peace.
The life and the message have to be the same. No one listens to a hypocrite. We must live in such a way that people will listen when we speak (Phil. 1:27 1Jn. 1:6,7; 2Cor. 6:14-18).
- C. Third, turn many back from iniquity.
The priest's message was one that the people would know right from wrong. It was a message that encouraged people to do right and would warn them against the problems of doing wrong (Mt. 3:2; Ac. 2:40; 26:18).
- D. Fourth, preserve knowledge.
A Xian is to grow in grace and in knowledge. They were to be filled with the word of God. This can also mean memorization (2Pet. 3:18; 1:2-8; Col. 3:16).
- E. Fifth, seek instruction from his mouth.
Now we're talking about character. Are someone that another can trust and confide in as much they will come to you for help? You can have great knowledge, but with it should come the personality to make you accessible (1Tim. 4:12,16; 2Tim. 2:22-25; Titus 2:1-8).

F. Sixth, a messenger of the Lord.

The word evangelist means "a proclaimer of good tidings." We bring not our own message but one from God. We become a servant to do God's wishes (Lk. 2:10; 2Cor. 4:5-10; Rom. 10:14,15).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. When we as Xians do not do these things we are committing treason against God. We are not giving our faith and allegiance to Him.
- B. To preach and live a different gospel than the one He has given us is to promote a false appearance of safety and reliability.
- C. The call goes out to find those who will live and speak according to .God's way!
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.