

CLERGY CORRUPTION

Malachi 2:1-9

**Today let us consider the corruption of carelessness
when it comes to God and His truth.**

I. THE CAUTION (1-4)

- God's warnings to the priests.

A. THE WARNED (1)

- The priests

B. THE ISSUES (2)

- A calloused disrespect and neglect

C. THE THREAT (2)

- If you don't change you will be cursed (See Deut. 28:15-20)

D. THE EXCLAMATION (2b)

- God has already cursed their blessings!

E. SOME REVELATIONS (3)

- Cursing their blessings isn't all God would do.

F. THE REASON (4)

- For the confirmation, continuation and cleansing of the Levitic priesthood

II. THE STANDARD (5-7)

- God's plan for all priests.

A. THEIR CALLING (5a)

- A covenant with promises which God fulfilled.

B. THEIR RESPONSE (5b-6)

1. Holy Worship (5b)

- See Ex. 32:25-29 and Num. 25:1-15 for examples

2. Truthful Words (6a)

3. A Godly Walk (6b)

4. Effective Ways (6b)

C. THEIR MINISTRY (7)

1. Priests should teach God's truth to people

2. People should seek God's truth from priests

3. God has appointed truth-tellers for people

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III. **THE REALITY** (8-9)

- *God's evaluation of these priests.*

A. THEY ARE UNFAITHFUL

1. They turned from the truth
2. They have caused many to stumble (Note Micah 3:11)
3. They corrupted God's covenant

B. THEY ARE UNWORTHY (9)

- Therefore God decided to demote them

IV. **THE APPLICATION**

- *God's word to His church.*

A. FOR THE CLERGY

1. Speak sound doctrine - Titus 2:1
2. Avoid corruption - I Peter 5:1-3

B. FOR THE CHRISTIAN

1. Know God's standards for pastors - Titus 1:7-11
2. Beware of godless impersonators - Acts 20:29-30
 - Consider the dangers of postmodernism, materialism, universalism and mysticism

CONCLUSION:

There is today a great deal of corruption and carelessness when it comes to God and His truth.

- *Sadly those in spiritual leadership often promote such a condition!*

- In Malachi's day the corruption of the clergy was their disregard for God and His Word

* The reality is that the people tolerated a corrupt clergy!

Is our congregation corrupt?

- Do we honor God?
- Do we follow Him?
- Do we require those who teach and instruct us to maintain biblical truth and standards?
- Do we insist that our pastors be faithful?

God forbid that we ever become a congregation that tolerates clergy corruption.

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