

# **GOD'S SKEPTICS**

## **Malachi 2:17-3:6**

**When we cling to our uncorrected assumptions,  
we tend to become negative, disappointed and critical.**

*That is the condition found in our text today.  
Let's see how God addresses it.*

### **I. THE CRITIC'S COMPLAINTS** (2:17)

#### **A. THEIR ASSUMPTIONS** (or accusations)

1. God approves of evil-doers
2. God delights in evil-doers
3. God is inactive against the unjust

#### **B. THEIR ATTITUDE**

1. God is not fair! - See Habakkuk 1:13
2. God deserves our disappointment
3. God can be taunted

#### **C. THEIR DIVERSION**

- They attack the Judge since they cannot deny His judgments

#### **D. THEIR AFFECT**

- They weary God!

### **II. GOD'S SPECIFIC RESPONSES** (3:1-6)

- Note that though He is under no obligation to do so, God graciously answers His critics.

#### **A. HIS ATTITUDE ABOUT EVIL** (1-4)

1. A Messenger is Coming (1a)
  - Evil opposition will be reprovved and removed
- a. The person: John the Baptist - See Matt. 3:1-3
- b. His purpose: Clearing the way - Matt. 3:1-10

2. The Messiah is Coming (1b-4)
  - Evil priests and people will be purified
  - a. The Person: Jesus Christ Himself! (1b) [see John 1:14]
  - b. The Problem (2a)
    - None are worthy to meet Him
  - c. The Purging (2b-4)
    - 1) His occupation (2b)
    - 2) His objective (3-4)
      - Purifying the priests (3) and preparing His people (4)

#### B. HIS ATTITUDE ABOUT JUSTICE (5-6)

1. He Condemns the Wicked (5)
  - a. Judgment begins with them (5a)
  - b. Specifics are addressed (5b)
2. He Commits to Consistency (6)
  - a. God's immutability is steadfast
  - b. Because He is changeless, they are not consumed
    - There is hope here! - See Rom. 11:1-5 & 25-29

### CONCLUSION:

**Are you a skeptic? ...**

**Will you accuse God? ...**

**Do you make wrong assumptions about God?**

*Like sinful Israel, we may sometimes wonder what in the world God is doing!*

*Like Israel, we may need a reminder that God's justice and judgment begins with us.*

For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? - I Peter 4:17

**Rather than accuse God and assume wrong things about Him, may we trust Him, yield to Him and praise Him.**