**GOD REMEMBERS**

Malachi 3:13-18

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**INTRODUCTION**

 Last week, we heard God’s frustration with people who distort right and wrong and go so far as to say that those who do evil are good persons. Such people do not believe that God pays any attention—if there is a God, which they seem to doubt. In today’s message, we will look at God’s anger expressed toward His children who are being influenced by the worldly success of evil people. God’s own children are saying “harsh things” against Him, although they say they are not guilty of such an accusation. Malachi fills in the details for us.

1. **HARSH WORDS AGAINST GOD: WHAT GOD’S CHILDREN ARE SAYING**
2. Serving God is a waste of **time** and **energy**.

(“*It is futile to serve God.*”)

1. The obedient see no **advantage** in their being faithful

(“*What did we gain by carrying out his requirements & going about like mourners?*”).

1. The proud who refused to mourn are **honored**.

(“*We call the arrogant blessed.*”)

1. The wicked are **rewarded**, not punished.

(“*Certainly the evildoers prosper.*”)

1. The challenges of the wicked receive no **response**.

(“*Even those who challenge God escape.*”).

*It is bad enough when evil people say bad things against God! However, when God’s children say bad things about Him, God will respond to them in His own way and in His own time. His people should know better than to speak harsh words against Him. However, God’s response here in our text is for the encouragement of the faithful, not for the ones who are being lured into speaking evil because of worldly attraction.*

1. **GENTLE WORDS FROM GOD: WHAT GOD SAYS TO THE FAITHFUL**
2. All who fear God should **communicate** with one another and with God.
3. All who fear God are **recorded** in a Scroll of Remembrance.
4. All who honor God are **recorded** in this Scroll.
5. All whose names are **written** in the Scroll will be God’s “treasured possession.”
6. All of these who are **remembered** will be spared because of His compassion.

*God speaks comforting words to His children who remain faithful—especially when others are wandering away through the deceitfulness of worldly attractions. God knows how to encourage us when others are discouraging us. God knows how to give us just what we need to keep us keeping on. God is a loving and compassionate God.*

**CONCLUSION**

This passage concludes with Malachi reminding God’s people that God will once again “distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.” We may be frustrated by the words of the wayward righteous, even enticed by their arguments. However, God will be faithful to those who remain faithful regardless of the circumstances they face. Thus, I ask you, “Is your name written in the Scroll of Remembrance?” If so, God will show you mercy and compassion. If your name is not written there because of your faithfulness, I ask another question: “Is your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life? In other words, are you a child of God? If you are not, your name cannot be written in the Book or the Scroll. I urge you to invite Jesus Christ into your life today. Become a child of God today. Begin today to be a faithful child so that your name will be written in the Scroll of Remembrance. Then, surely, you will receive mercy & compassion.

*“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days, all the days of my life.*

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