

# Crushing Spiritual Apathy

*Honoring God with your life, as you prepare for the King* Introduction to Malachi Chris Mueller

Introduction:

## #1 The CAUSE of spiritual APATHY

Genesis

A People, a Constitution, and a Land

Saul, David, Solomon

Wealth, Wives, Horses

931

Assyria in 722

Babylon in 605

605 Daniel

597 Ezekiel

586 Jeremiah

538 Decree

515 Completed God's Temple

458 Ezra

445 Nehemiah

## #2 The APPROACH against spiritual APATHY

**Malachi 1:7** *You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, "How have we defiled You?" In that you say, "The table of the LORD is to be despised."*

**Malachi 2:17** *You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them," or, "Where is the God of justice?"*

**Malachi 3:8** *Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, "How have we robbed You?" In tithes and offerings.*

## #3 THE CHARACTERISTICS of spiritual APATHY

**1<sup>st</sup> God's people had forgotten God's electing \_\_\_\_\_ 1:1-5**

**Malachi 1:2** *"I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have You loved us?" "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob."*

**1 John 4:19** *We love, because He first loved us.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> The nation was led by compromising spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ 1:6-2:9**

**1 John 2:4** *The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> The Jewish men were \_\_\_\_\_ to their WIVES 2:10–16

**Malachi 2:16** For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel.

### 4<sup>th</sup> The people began to question God's \_\_\_\_\_ 2:17–3:5

**Malachi 2:17** "Where is the God of justice?"

**Malachi 3:1** "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

**John 1:29** Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

### 5<sup>th</sup> The people *refused to repent* over their poor \_\_\_\_\_ 3:6–12

**Matthew 6:21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Malachi 3:8** ...you are robbing Me! ... In tithes and offerings. **10** "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."

### 6<sup>th</sup> The people didn't own the reality of \_\_\_\_\_ 3:13–4:6

**Malachi 4:1** "The day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," ... **2** "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall."

#### Take Home:

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ should not lead to APATHY

**Genesis 50:20** As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

**Acts 2:23** This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

#### B. \_\_\_\_\_ for God is a part of being IN CHRIST

#### C. Staying \_\_\_\_\_ means focusing on Christ's return

**Malachi 3:1** "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

**1 John 2:28** Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

#### D. Spiritual apathy is only cured by \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ

#### QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST

1. Why is apathy so prevalent among our unsaved friends and family?
2. How do you see apathy manifested in the lives of so-called Christians?
3. How is apathy seen in the lives of your brothers and sisters at FBC?
4. What kind of events, situations or relationships contribute to apathy in a believer's life?
5. How should you talk to someone who is battling with apathy?
6. What immediate steps do you need to take to overcome apathy in your life?
7. How will Malachi help us overcome spiritual apathy?