

Day Of The LORD

10-4-20

Malachi 4:1 (ESV)

For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

This is the last chapter of the OT. It basically says that the world's failure to turn to God will end in its utter destruction. God tells us this so we will keep things in perspective and to keep our eyes on HIM. When things are so evil and perverse that there is not any human answer, God will step into this world and set everything ablaze. There is not any reason to elaborate on this truth. However, in 2 Peter, Peter makes a great observation about the impact of this truth. Peter says, "Since all these things are to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be?" Knowing this truth will impact our behavior. Malachi gives us one way in which this knowledge should change our priorities.

Malachi 4:6 (ESV)

And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, **lest I come and strike the land** with a decree of utter destruction.

Note: Lest I come and strike the land! To delay this cataclysmic event, it is necessary for the hearts of fathers to turn to their children and the hearts of children to turn to their fathers.

This future ministry before the coming Day of the LORD is described in terms of bridging the generation gap. The focus is on the fifth commandment of the Ten commandments:

Ex.20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land.

The NT repeats this truth.

Eph.6:2-3 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

This recognizes that the home is the school of the community.

In the family is a ‘world in miniature’, where authority and submission, love and loyalty, obedience and trust are learned as nowhere else and with the Word of God as the guide in the home, society will be changed. Today we see this mission achieving success as people embrace Christ.

While the fifth commandment identifies the honor due to fathers and mothers, Malachi highlights the need for the father’s involvement and leadership in the family. Both the father and mother are to fully live out their Christian faith in their home so that it is the most natural thing in the world for the children is to trust Jesus with their whole heart.

Deuteronomy give fathers and mother the necessary instruction.

First is the father and mother’s personal walk!

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (ESV)

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Second flowing out of the father and mother's personal walk is the diligent teaching their children.

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (ESV)

⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

The knowledge of God is the foundation for any knowledge.

Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Without God all teaching will be on a false premise. Without God everything becomes relative based on human thinking. This explains the insanity in our school system. God's knowledge is the source of confidence.

Proverbs 14:26 (ESV)

In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence,
and his children will have a refuge.

Proper training of a child will endure throughout their life.

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)

Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.

As I studied this section of Scripture, I was struck by the fact that the Christian family held off the Day of God's judgement.

I was also struck of the importance of the father's leadership role in the family. Considering the fact, "The family is a 'world in miniature', where life lessons are learned," we are going to spend the next several weeks talking about the God ordained marriage relationship. A healthy marriage relationship will teach healthy values to children. Also, a healthy marriage "Exalts the woman and demands Leadership by the man."

Such a series can be very beneficial to those who are single:

#1 Being equipped for future marriage.

#2 Having insight and knowledge being able to give words of comfort and encouragement to those who are married.

#3 Since Scripture speaks of marriage as a picture of Christ and the church, we all will all have a deeper understanding of our eternal relationship with Christ.

Therefore, with this in mind we will close with the Apostles Paul's profound statement about the marriage relationship.

Ephesians 5:32 (ESV)

(Marriage) This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.