



Empowering People to Change the World

Refiner's Fire Part V

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Refining Fire Part 5: The Sun of Righteousness

This Tuesday is our 24 Hour War Room.

**Everyone stand now and hold up your Bible. We have the
“Mountain Moving.”**

***God can move mountains in my life
I will build up my faith with God's Holy Word
I will come alive in the power of the Holy Spirit
With Jesus, nothing will be impossible.***

Malachi 3:1-3; chapter 4

Malachi is mentioning “the day of the Lord” coming in the future in which the Lord will be:

- A refiner's fire for Israel and for the Church.
- A forest fire for the proud and arrogant.
- Look back at **Malachi 3:17-18**
¹⁷ "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him." ¹⁸ Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.
 - Those in the family, those He loves in His family are likened to “jewels.”
 - Those who do not serve God, are called the “wicked.”

Malachi 4:1

¹ "For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the Lord of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.

- Chapter 4 continues on this refiner's fire theme but now connects the fire to a day that is coming; the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to take back this earth as His.
- He is coming for His Church, His people, His beloved, His jewels.
- Even today, God is refining His church, burning through His family to refine us, to make us beautiful.
- Jesus is coming back to a beautiful spotless bride:
- **2 Corinthians 11:2 NIV**
I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.
- **Ephesians 5:27 NIV**
and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.
- **Revelation 19:7 NIV**
*Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.*

Malachi 4:2

**² But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise
With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.**

Psalm 19:4-6

"In them has He set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. It is rising from one end of the heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat"

- There is no better metaphor in all of Scripture of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ than the sun.
- What Milton calls “the golden-tressed sun” is the most glorious object in creation, and in Jesus the fullness of glory dwells; the sun is at the same time the most influential of existences, acting upon the whole world, and truly our Lord is, in the deepest sense.
- Spurgeon writes, “Jesus, like the sun, is the center and soul of all things, the fullness of all good, the lamp that lights us, the fire that warms us, the magnet that guides and controls us; he is the source and fountain of all life, beauty, fruitfulness, and strength; he is the fosterer of tender herbs of penitence, the quickener of the vital sap of grace, the ripener of fruits of holiness, and the life of everything that grows within the garden of the Lord. Whereas to adore the sun would be idolatry; it were treason not to worship ardently the divine Sun of Righteousness.”
- I so love the sun! I have been deep in the forest high up, above 10,000 feet hunting, hiking, fishing, and it is so cold, below zero many times and then the sun begins to rise! You know it is the coldest just before the sun rises. It is also the darkest just before sunrise.
- The sun began to rise with the first coming of Jesus, but the sun seemingly set for 3 days. For 3 days Jesus went into paradise and torments (remember the story of Lazarus and the Rich Man) to set the captives free; He preached the gospel there and an earthquake occurred and on the 3rd day He rose again!
- The sun has been rising for 2000 years, and His light of healing is growing brighter and brighter with each passing year. Darkness is darker and light is brighter.
- The refiner’s fire is burning through the Church even in Colorado Springs. He is getting His church ready for a Great Reformation, a Kingdom of God Revolution.

Malachi 4:3

³ You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this," Says the Lord of hosts.

- The Fire of God will be a refiner's fire for the Church but a forest fire for the wicked—**ashes under his feet.**

Malachi 4:4-6

⁴ "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. ⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. ⁶ And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Isaiah 60:1-3

¹ "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. ³ The Gentiles shall come to your light, the kings to the brightness of your rising."

Luke 1:78-79

⁷⁸ "the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

- God is building a family! The means he choose for building His kingdom on earth was through family.

Purpose of every Family

- 1) A family is a mini-kingdom of God. Intimacy with God represented through a husband and wife—the key metaphor in Scripture for Christ—groom and the Church—bride.
 - a. If you are single, then Jesus is your husband, your wife. He will sustain you.

- b. The kingdom of God is the “reign and rule of Christ.”
- c. A place of safety and peace.
- d. A place of relationships that defend and honor each member.
- e. A place of love and forgiveness.

2) Godly offspring

- a. God “made them male and female.” He gave us marriage that we might have godly offspring.
- b. **Malachi 2:15**
¹⁵ But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

- 3) Multiplication of the kingdom into a generation of new godly families that impact our city!

Purpose the Church Family is the same!

The challenge is that The Road would be a Church that is a Witness of the Kingdom of God to our city. How can we grow toward that?

The Road @ Chapel Hills is a Family. What kind of family are we becoming?

- 1) A Culture of Honor**—calling out the New Man rather than punishing the old man.
- 2) An Atmosphere of Forgiveness**—being slow to judge and quick to forgive.
- 3) A Covenant of Harmony**—working through issues following Matthew 18.

4) A Kingdom of Priests and Kings—worshippers and warriors—next week.

5) A Kingdom Revolution Vision—God came to take back what Satan has stolen. Building wholehearted disciples that build a wholehearted city.

Matthew 25:31

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.