

# "The Heart Of God"

**TEXT: Malachi**

*SOURCE: The Sermon File of: Larry L. Schoonover*

## INTRODUCTION:

This book reveals the "Heart Of God" to us. As you examine the word delivered through the prophet Malachi, what do you see upon the heart of our Lord? From these pages we see....

## I. THE CONTENT OF HIS HEART (1:2a)

"I have loved you"

1. What a glorious way to open a letter!
  - a. We all like good news
  - b. [Illustration]  
While our son was away in boot camp, we looked forward to each letter. We longed to hear of how he was doing , of his progress, of the things that interest and excite him. We longed for good news from our son.
2. A balance must be struck
  - a. Many preach the love of God - and deny His righteous judgment
  - b. Many preach the judgment of God - and speak little of His marvelous love
3. Know this - God loves you!

## II. THE PAIN OF HIS HEART (1:2-8)

"Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us?"

1. Imagine, if you will, having dedicated yourself to the good, to the joy, to the relationship, to the blessing of another - only to hear them ask, "How have you loved me?"
  - a. What pain such a question must bring to the heart!
2. See the graciousness of God toward Israel:
  - a. He chose them (v2c-3a)
  - b. He protected them (v3b)
  - c. He prevents the advancement or blessing of the enemy (v4)
  - d. He promises prosperity (v5)

3. But their response was:
  - a. To question His love (v2b)
  - b. Refusal to honor Him (v6)
  - c. Denial of iniquity / defiling acts (v7-8)

### III. THE PLEASURE OF HIS HEART (3:16-17)

The pleasure of the Lord is to bless His people! He does so in our text by:

1. Listening to them (v16)
  - a. (Psalm 77:1)
2. Recording their righteous deeds (v16)
  - a. Those who "fear" (hold Him in awe, reverence)
  - b. Those who "thought" or meditate on His Holy Name
    - i. (Psalm 77:12-15)
    - ii. (Psalm 63:1-6)
3. Fellowship with them (v17)
  - a. (Revelation 3:20)
4. Making them to stand in the day of judgment (v17)
  - a. (Romans 7:24-8:1)