Malachi - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 24

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“Unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall”— Mal. 4:2.

THE Old Testament closes with the prophecy of the day of the Lord and the coming of the Sun of Righteousness. The New Testament ends with the promise of the Morning Star. Both refer to our Lord Jesus, but the two aspects of His second advent are thus presented. He will return for His Bride, the Church, as the Morning Star. He will be manifested for the deliverance of Israel and the blessing of the world as the glorious Sun of Righteousness. The darker the night becomes the nearer must be the hour of the fulfilment of His pledge to come again. This blessed event is the hope of the Church, the hope of Israel and the hope of the world.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 23

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” — Malachi 3:10.

TITHING was in force before Moses (Gen. 14:20; Heb. 7:9). It was incorporated into the law of Sinai (Lev. 27:30). Under grace it is not mentioned, but proportionate giving is enjoined. The believer now is not to be less particular in honoring God with his substance than a Jew under law. “The righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Rom. 8:4). If I were a Jew under law, the tithe would be absolutely obligatory and the least I could give. Shall I as a believer, under grace, do less than if I were under law?

We rob God when we use what should be devoted to Him and to His work, for our own pleasure. Are we so faithful in setting aside the Lord’s portion that we can have His approval in this regard?

The New Testament precept is, “On the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him” (1 Cor. 16:2).

Daily Sacrifice, June 2

FROM the purely natural standpoint, Esau was the more admirable character of the two. He was frank and straightforward, a man of the open air, daring and bold; just such a one as most men esteem. Jacob was crafty and scheming, a weakling who depended on his wits rather than his physical prowess. But he valued eternal things, and from his youth counted the covenant of God as something worthy to be obtained. Dealt with by God in discipline, he became sobered and mellowed as the years went by, until, at last, we see him as a reverent worshiper in lowly subjection to the will of God. There is no evidence that Esau ever placed much value upon that birthright which as a youth he sold for a mess of pottage. His interests were in the things of time, not in those of eternity.

—Thomas O. Blair.