

Malachi 1:1-5 Loved.

-- **Big Idea: God's love for us is clear in the favor that He shows us and the consequences from which He spares us.**

- Malachi explicitly identifies the instruction that will follow as the “*word of the Lord*” (v. 1).
- Many Jews in Malachi's day were expressing doubts about God's covenant love (v. 2).

1.) See God's love in the **FAVOR** that he gives us (v. 2-3a).

- In spite of Jacob's many faults, God chose to grant favor both to him and his descendants.
- In reminding Israel of God's love, Malachi contrasts the _____ God had shown Israel to the **CONDEMNATION** that lay in store for Edom (Deuteronomy 23:7, Luke 14:26).
- No evidence of love can compare to the love that God has shown us in the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ (John 3:16, Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:9-10).
- Because God's love is perfectly revealed in Christ, the most joyful believers will be those who are most **CHRIST-CENTERED** (Heb. 12:2-3).
- In response to the question, “Does God really love me?” the Bible summons us to see the love of God in the sacrifice of our Savior.

2.) We see God's love in the **CONSEQUENCES** from which he spares us (v. 3-4).

- There is no hope in Esau, because He and His descendants are at odds with God.
- All of us were **ESAU** We were enemies of God because of our sin, and we fully deserving of His holy wrath against sinners (Eph. 2:1-3).
- Even though the world may thrive for a time, nothing done apart from God's grace and glory will last.
- Though we deserve God's wrath, God has made us heirs of the blessings promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (1 John 3:1).

Application: LIVE in the fullness of God's love!

- Please do not miss the love of God in the here-and-now!
- While God's love will be obvious to everyone at Christ's return, let it become increasingly relevant in everything we do every day.
- Let us be such Christ-centered, gospel-saturated people that, regardless of our circumstances, the **LOVE** of God will become increasingly **ALIVE** in us.