4Ws LIVE READY! BE FAITHFUL TO GOD

November 8, 2026

WORSHIP

Suggested worship songs: King Jesus, All Hail the Power, I Stand in Awe, In Christ Alone, Revelation Song, We Shall Behold Him, Bagong Awit

WELCOME

Imagine you just got a message that a very important guest is arriving at your house in only 15 minutes. What are the first three things you would do to get ready? If they ended up arriving even earlier than expected, would you still feel ready to welcome them?

WORD

Malachi 2:1-9

[1] "And now this commandment is for you, O priests. [2] If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name," says the Lord of hosts, "then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them already, because you are not taking it to heart. [3] Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it. [4] Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue with Levi," says the Lord of hosts. [5] "My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me and stood in awe of My name. [6] True instruction was in his mouth and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity. [7] For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. [8] But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi," says the Lord of hosts. [9] "So I also have made you despised and abased before all the people, just as you are not keeping My ways but are showing partiality in the instruction.

Are you ready to meet Jesus face to face? The greatest event ahead of us is His return. Malachi reminds us to live ready, not in fear, but with confidence, by remaining faithful to God.

The people in Malachi's time had returned from exile and rebuilt the temple, yet their spiritual lives weakened as they waited for the Messiah. Their worship became empty, and their hearts turned away from God. Last week, we learned that God loves us and deserves our sincere worship. Today, we learn that readiness means living faithfully while we wait. What matters is not when Jesus returns, but whether we are ready when He comes.

THE "TRUE STORY" OF A FAMILY

Imagine a generous father whose children question his love, dishonor his name, and offer him things they would never give someone they respect. This reflects how God's people treated Him in Malachi despite His provision.

The message is simple: Live ready. Be faithful to God. Faithfulness means doing what God has entrusted to us as we wait for Christ's return. We do not know when He will come, but we can choose to live faithfully until we meet Him.

GOD'S WARNINGS

Malachi 2 begins with a direct warning to the priests. God tells them to listen carefully and take His instruction to heart. Their responsibility was not merely to perform religious duties, but to honor His name (Malachi 2:1–2).

This warning applies to every believer, not only pastors or ministry leaders. Peter calls believers "a royal priesthood" who proclaim God's excellencies (1 Peter 2:9). We represent God by sharing the gospel, making disciples, modeling Christ, and praying for others.

God warned that disobedience would bring consequences, recalling the blessings and curses in Deuteronomy 28. God desires His people to experience His blessing, yet He corrects them when they abandon His ways (Deuteronomy 28:1–2, 15).

BLESSINGS AND CURSES

The priests enjoyed God's provision, the privilege of serving Him, fruitful ministry, and the respect of the people. Unfaithfulness could turn these blessings into deprivation, emptiness, and shame (Malachi 2:2–3).

Their disobedience could affect their descendants and cause others to reject the faith. Our choices do not affect us alone. In our small groups, we must encourage and pray for one another, while lovingly correcting one another when needed.

God's desire was to preserve His covenant with Levi, associated with life and peace (Malachi 2:4–5). His correction was meant to turn His people back to Him.

OUR WORSHIP

The first area of faithfulness is worship. God's covenant with Levi was one of life and peace because Levi revered Him and stood in awe of His name (Malachi 2:5). God desires us to live with purpose, grounded in His presence.

Jesus came so that we may have abundant life (John 10:10), not a life without problems, but one marked by His peace. God looks with favor on the humble person who trembles at His Word (Isaiah 66:2). We must worship with reverence and awe because He is holy (Hebrews 12:28–29).

OUR WORDS

The second area is our words. The priest's lips were to preserve knowledge because he was a messenger of the Lord (Malachi 2:6–7). Our advice, priorities, and decisions should be guided by God's Word, not merely by emotion or opinion.

Paul tells us to avoid unwholesome words and speak what builds others up and gives grace (Ephesians 4:29). Our speech should be gracious and appropriate (Colossians 4:6), encouraging others and pointing them toward God.

OUR WALK

The third area is our walk, the way we live. The priest walked with God in peace and uprightness (Malachi 2:6). Walking with God means living in His presence. His peace is not the absence of problems, but the assurance that comes from belonging to Him.

Enoch stands out because he walked with God (Genesis 5:21–24). His life reminds us that what matters is not how long we live, but how faithfully. We must depend on the Holy Spirit and walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16).

OUR WORK

The fourth area is our work, our mission on earth. The priest turned many people away from iniquity (Malachi 2:6). Someone helped us hear about Jesus; now we are called to help others know Him.

George Whitefield's story illustrates this mission. While he was still a student and not yet a Christian, John and Charles Wesley served him and invited him into their small group. They brought him along to serve prisoners. Through their example and Scripture, Whitefield understood that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus, not by good works (John 3:1–8; Ephesians 2:8–9). He devoted his life to sharing the gospel. We, too, must point people to Jesus and serve faithfully.

Malachi warned the priests because they had turned aside, caused others to stumble, and shown partiality in applying God's Word (Malachi 2:8–9). We must not pick and choose which parts of Scripture to obey.

God's correction aims to restore us. May we stand before Him having walked according to His Word and helped others do the same, and hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

Until that day, remain faithful in your worship, your words, your walk, and your work. Live ready. Be faithful to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. How can you improve in worshiping God with reverence and awe?
2. How can you be more gracious and edifying in your words?
3. How can you walk more closely with God?
4. Whom will you tell about Jesus this week?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that God will help you live faithfully and please Him while you wait for Jesus to return, and pray for those who do not yet know Him, asking God to open their hearts to the Gospel. Care for those struggling in their faith by reaching out to them, encouraging them with God's Word, praying with them, and reminding them of our certain hope in Christ's return. Share the Gospel and the hope of salvation found in Jesus with those who do not yet know Him by looking for every opportunity to witness to His love.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For legislators to promote and support bills and laws aligned with God's Word.
- For the Philippines as it hosts the 49th ASEAN Summit on November 16–18: pray for wisdom for the Philippines and ASEAN leaders, peaceful and fruitful discussions, regional cooperation, and safety for all delegates, residents, and security personnel.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented.
- For the rest of the Israeli hostages to be restored to their families safely. For Israel's war with terrorists to end according to God's purpose and for His glory.
- For the civil war in Syria to end peacefully, protection for Christians and other minorities, and freedom from oppression for Syrians. Pray for the gospel to spread rapidly throughout the country.
- Pray for Sudan and persecuted Christians there; earnestly seek God's intervention to stop the bloodshed. Pray for freedom from oppression, that God's word and His people bring them comfort and hope.
- Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ affected by the disaster in Nepal, especially those who remain missing. Pray that they will be found safely, and that God will strengthen and comfort their families. May the Lord provide for their needs and give them hope and courage as they face the days ahead.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God, and make disciples
- For elders, pastors, DLeaders, and families to become holy, humble, harmonious, happy, and heart-working)
- For ministries and church expansions worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain (MMRC)

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper and intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Malachi 2:5-6

5 "My covenant with him was one of life and peace,
and I gave them to him as an object of reverence;
so he revered Me and stood in awe of My name. 6
True instruction was in his mouth and
unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he
walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he
turned many back from iniquity.