



GOING DEEPER

Discussion Questions and more from Sunday's message, before we begin, here are the verses for this week's study! Open your bible to the book of Malachi Chapter 4: vv. 2-3.

How much time have you spent this past week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel? How has reflecting on Him been of help to you? Because that is how we grow in how we think about our relationship to God and how we bring Him Glory each day, in each conversation, interaction, our work, our family. **In everything.** The gospel and the love of Christ should indwell us, and we should be burdened to share that good news with others in these last days. ***Have you shared the good news with anyone this week? Have you showed the love of Jesus to anyone this week?***

Pushback: The Day is Coming

The certainty of God's future work puts present living in its proper order.

1: God's promise of healing shapes daily faithfulness

The Future of Those Who Fear God

Malachi 4:2

2 "But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall."

What stands out to you most in the image of "the sun of righteousness" rising?

"You shall go leaping from a stall" Billy told a **Rodeo story**, the Calves instinctively knew where to go.

Vs 2a "But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings." The **sun rises** with mathematical precision.

(just like an oven last week) The sun is reliable just like God is reliable.

What do you think "healing in its wings" communicates about God's character and His work among His people?

How should this promise shape the way believers endure dark or discouraging seasons?

"When calves are released from the stall into a sunny field, they skip with joy. The day of the Messiah's apparition in flaming fire will be a "furnace to their enemies." - George Williams 1953.

Salvation as a sunrise instead of a lightning strike...

In this case, it's not about light, but specifically the imagery of sunrise
sunrise is gradual - unstoppable - and completely reliable

2. God's Reality of Judgment shapes daily repentance

v. 3 "and you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts."

Grudges will be over with....

God makes it clear to Israel, and to us...

Yes, it's darkest before dawn.

God's faithfulness is often progressive before it's visible but the sun is coming.

"How does the promise that God will ultimately deal with evil help us let go of bitterness and choose repentance, patience, and trust today?"

What in your life needs repentance today if God's coming judgment is real and certain?

Applications for us this week:

- 1) Interpret conflict as evidence we are moving toward Christ final ordering***
- 2) Treat obedience as alignment with Christ's already established authority***
- 3) Release grievances quickly, delayed forgiveness reshapes your spirit more than offense.***

"What is our attitude towards that day? That is the supreme test of our position. As the last word of the Old Testament economy was a word declaring the coming of that day, so also is the last word of the New Testament economy. The attitude of men towards that day determines their ultimate relation thereto, and their ultimate destiny." George Campbell Morgan, British Evangelist. 1863-1945. Discipled Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

LIVE IT OUT

Bible Study should ALWAYS lead to taking action with what you learned. Think of it as Vitamin A. "Application" into your day, week and interactions.

Let's look at some **practical ways believers can live out Malachi 4:1–2 in these last days** in each area of life. The passage gives both a **warning** and a **promise**: live with reverence because **the day is coming** and live with hope because **the sun of righteousness rises with healing**.

Living this out in our families

Practice humble repentance quickly. Since God sees posture as well as behavior, believers can model saying, "I was wrong—please forgive me." **Ephesians 4:26**

Create a home that remembers God. Read Scripture together, pray together, and talk naturally about Christ in everyday moments.

Choose formation over appearance. Don't aim merely for a "good-looking family"; aim for a God-shaped one with truth, patience, and love at the center. No family is perfect. None.

Bring healing where there has been hurt. Verse 2 reminds us that God's work is restorative, so believers should pursue reconciliation, tenderness, and encouragement. Matthew 18:21–22. How many times did Jesus say forgive others?

Teach children and younger believers to fear God with joy. Not with terror, but with reverence, trust, and obedience.

In our church family

Worship with sincerity, not performance. Malachi speaks strongly against outward religion without inward reality. Worship in spirit and truth!

Encourage one another toward holiness. Help one another build roots, not just branches. Who are you discipling? Who is discipling you? Be a disciple-maker. Live out the Great Commission in these last days.

Make room for confession, prayer, and restoration. Churches should be places where healing is sought, not hidden.

Serve with humility. Two people can do the same ministry outwardly, but God sees the heart posture beneath it. Paul said, we must die to live. When we put ourselves into an entitlement way of thinking it is not glorifying God.

Keep the gospel central. The coming day should make the church urgent, compassionate, and grounded in Christ. It should make us change our calendars and what is in them.

In our workplaces

Work with integrity even when no one sees. Live as people who know they stand before God. Colossians 3:23. Every day.

Refuse prideful ambition. Seek excellence, but not self-exaltation. Trust the Lord. He is Jehovah Jireh.

Be reliable and steady. Verse 2's sunrise image points to faithfulness—show up with consistency, honesty, and grace. As Chip Ingram has said make your manager/leader say, "What is it about you? I wish I had 10 employees like you!"

Treat others with dignity. Bring healing into the workplace by being calm, fair, encouraging, and truthful. Be Jesus with flesh on.

Let pressure reveal Christlike character. When stress rises, aim to respond with patience, self-control, and hope rather than panic or harshness. Focus on grace. Focus on people. Pray.

In our community

Be present where people are hurting. The "healing" of verse 2 should move believers toward compassion and practical care. Move in action not on the sidelines.

Speak truth with gentleness. Malachi warns clearly, but God's people should speak with both courage and love. Always.

Live visibly hopeful lives. In a fearful or cynical world, believers can be people of steady hope. **"Our faith looks backward to a crucified Savior. Our love looks upward to a crowned Savior. And our hope looks forward to a coming Savior."** — Adrian Rogers

Pursue justice, mercy, and neighbor-love. The fear of God should make us more faithful in how we treat people around us. Grace and glorifying God in all we do.

Share the gospel with urgency and tenderness. If the day is coming, then love compels us to speak of Christ now. Not next week or next month. It is life-changing news. **"Above all it is that you know Christ and then that your neighbors hear about Christ."** — John MacArthur

Believers live out Malachi 4:1–2 by living with reverence before God, humility in relationships, integrity in daily work, and hope-filled compassion in the world—because the day is coming, and the Sun of righteousness has risen for those who fear His name.

How can we bring the hope and healing of Christ into ordinary places this week?

How should I pray for this life change?

"You don't want to ask the Lord for a trouble-free life. You should ask the Lord this, "Lord, work Your work in my heart, don't give me more than I can endure. Show me grace and compassion, you know my weaknesses and frailties. I want to see Your lovingkindness, but I want You to do Your work. I want You to do Your perfecting work. I want You to do whatever it takes in me to make me what You want me to be." You need to come to terms with that. You need to be able to say that." John MacArthur

Remember:

"We are to run the race with endurance, not in our own strength, but by fixing our gaze on Jesus. He is not only the goal of our faith—He is the source and sustainer of it." R.C. Sproul

"The gospel is not only about changing WHERE you will live for eternity, it's also about changing HOW you will live today." Shane Pruitt
And that is a heart change. So that we glorify God in all we do.

Having Jesus as Savior will cost you nothing. Having Jesus as Savior will cost you everything. How so?

Who do you say God is? You cannot "come after" Jesus unless you come to Him.

Two roads stand before us in this world today. There is the way of the divine things of our Lord, which is the way of Christ. And there is the way of human things of the world. There is a way to save your life, and you will lose it there. And there is a way to lose your life for the sake of the Kingdom, and there you will find it.

How do we follow Jesus' ways? First of all, we turn from our sin and entrust our lives to Him as our Savior and Lord. Then, we seek His will in His Word each day and put it into practice by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We learn to deny our selfish desires and give ourselves completely to following Jesus.

This choice we have — to seek first the kingdom of God — is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it.

Remember the gospel is personal. Your changed life shows that to others around you based on what happened at the cross. You are at a crossroads if you have not accepted Christ. Which road are you traveling on right now? Are you on God's side?



Are you in a Growth Group at First Baptist? In this isolated world, Growth Groups help people connect in a healthy way. God has created us for a deep longing for community. We grow when we are living out our faith in a small group with others and we do this by loving, caring for, and encouraging each other. If you have any questions about our Growth Groups, contact the Church Office for more information.