

You Have Heard

23rd August 2015

You Have Heard

œ Malachi 3:1-5

œ God will send his messenger in advanced

œ Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to the temple

œ He will be like a refiner's fire



You Have Heard

☞ Romans 1:18-20 *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*



You Have Heard

1. You have heard long ago

⌘ How have we wearied him? – Mal 2:17

⌘ How are we to return? – Mal 3:7

⌘ How are we robbing you? – Mal 3:8

⌘ What have we say against you? – Mal 3:13



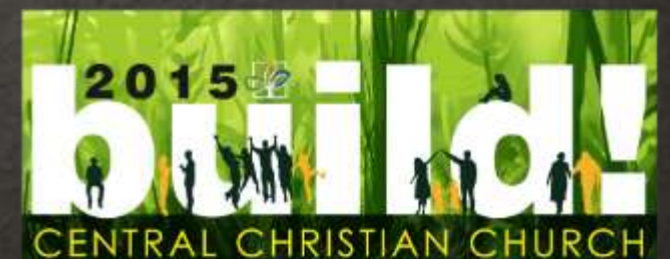
You Have Heard

œ Are we going to utter the same excuse?

œ Didn't we do this and that?

œ Didn't we do this in your name?

œ Didn't we perform many miracles?



You Have Heard

☞ Matthew 7:21-23 *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*



You Have Heard

- œ What are we drawn to more?
- œ The truth or distributors of faith-based goods and services, the focus is on what the church can do for us (good kids' programs, an accommodating facility, inspiring sermons, fun events, a social network)



You Have Heard

- ⌘ Many of our churches are now more akin to social clubs than they are to spiritual families, being devoid of faithful commitment, self-sacrificial love, mutual accountability, and Christ-centeredness.
- ⌘ These social clubs often constitute somewhat shallow relationships and overemphasis on common interest- or convenience-based community.



You Have Heard

œ 2 Timothy 4:3

œ *For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*



You Have Heard

- œ Have we become like those of old in the dark ages or even during the NT times that we rely heavily upon others to interpret the Scriptures for us [eg; preacher or Bible teacher]. Which in itself is not wrong
- œ It becomes a serious matter when we refuse to take such responsibility upon ourselves like those at Berea – Acts 17:10-12



You Have Heard

☞ Acts 17:11-12

☞ *Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. 12 As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.*



You Have Heard

☞ 11th August



☞ Josephine



You Have Heard

☞ 22nd August



☞ Dr. Michael Chang



You Have Heard

2. You have heard it was said

☞ Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to the temple

☞ HIS return is inevitable.

☞ It will be suddenly. So how will we fare when it happens?



You Have Heard

- œ Even though God's Word (OT) was the standard by which Israel was to be governed.
- œ Most of the common people of Israel did not know the Hebrew to read or understand what it was saying.
- œ Since the return from the Babylonian captivity most of those in Israel no longer knew its native language.



You Have Heard

- œ Religious leaders (Pharisees and the Scribes) who were the ones called upon to translate and interpret the OT.
- œ At such the Scriptures interpreted in manner that reflected their own personal and biased teachings.
- œ Over time this led to the point that just observing the Law. An outward allegiance was sufficient in fulfilling God's demands.



You Have Heard

- œ After Malachi, 400 years before NT
- œ The Israelites became very use to the outward allegiance to God.
- œ Then came Jesus at the sermon of the Mount.



You Have Heard

☞ You have heard that it was said - but I tell you.

☞ These two phrases found in Matt 5: 21, 27, 31, 33, 38, and 43.

☞ Christ's teaches that the primary aspect of righteousness was not outward expression but rather the inward matter of the heart.



You Have Heard

3. You have heard that there will be a Judge

⌘ He will be like a refiner's fire.

⌘ Refiner's fire – purifying agent to burn off dross and alkali (the condition of our hearts)

⌘ Purify the Levites (we are high priest), beginning with them to lead the nation



You Have Heard

- œ Offering in righteousness – giving from a cleanse heart is the right condition to have before God.
- œ These sacrifice and offering will be acceptable before God.
- œ Note: the aspect of righteousness was not outward expression but rather the inward matter of the heart.



You Have Heard

œ Self Check:

œ QT/ Studying of the Word

œ Prayer/Intimate relationship with God

œ Loving the lost/Mission

œ Tithing

œ Loving one another

