

July 14, 2021

Edifying Speech

As we have seen, **Malachi 3:13-15** is a picture of the ungodly world we live in. As we come to **Malachi 3:16-18**, Malachi turns his attention to the people of God. In context he is addressing the believing remnant of Israel. He identifies them as “they that feared the Lord.” Today we would identify them as believers, those who make up the true church, the body and bride of Christ. In Bible times, the nation of Israel was God’s chosen people and stood in contrast to the heathen Gentiles. In the New Testament these same two groups are identified as Jew and Gentile. Today we identify them as the church and the world.

The first thing we notice about these believers is they “spake often one to another.” This speaks of our Christian fellowship. As believers we are to gather together as a church body or family to edify and encourage one another. **Hebrews 10:22-27** warns against forsaking the assembling together of the body. Believers who neglect the house of God are sinning willfully. The world does not understand the importance or necessity of the church, because they are not part of the body of Christ, but for the child of God, God’s house is where God’s family gathers to feast on God’s Word. If we as believers fail to live and act in accordance with our knowledge of truth, we can expect the chastening judgment of God. According to **Hebrews 11:5-11**, why does God chasten His children? What does it prove and how is it profitable? According to **Ephesians 4:11-16**, why has God given us the church? A believer who neglects God’s house will never mature spiritually. According to **Hebrews 5:12-14**, what must we do if we are to grow up spiritually? **1 Peter 2:2** says, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” Babies need milk, nourishment, and exercise to grow. The same is true of believers. Are you a growing Christian, or are you still a babe in Christ? In what ways are you currently growing? What can you do to facilitate further spiritual growth?

Not only do we notice that they spoke to one another, but we also note what they spoke about. Generally speaking, much of the conversation that takes place at church has nothing to do with the Lord. Many times, we engage in innocent conversation about the weather, sports, politics, family, and such like without giving it a thought. How much of your “church” conversation interests God? I’m afraid much of our conversation is vain. It is empty and of no value. What should we talk about when we come to church? How can our speech be edifying and encouraging to other believers? The end of Malachi 3:16 says they “thought upon his name.” Their thoughts and thus their conversation was centered around Christ and the things of God. Only the things of God are spiritually edifying. **Romans 14:19** says, “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” This includes our conversations. While the things of this life provide common ground for conversation with the world, the things of God are what bind us together as believers. If we only talk about the things of this life, what does it say about our own spiritual maturity? Consider your own conversations. What do you talk about the most? How can you change the topics of conversation to develop more edifying speech?