

A Refining Fire
Malachi 2:17-3:6
Beauty from Chaos, 5
Dr. Ted Wueste

God gets tired of the complaints of His people ... 2:17

- Question #1: is God good?
- Question #2: is God sovereign?

God graciously responds by explaining that ... 3:1

- their true desires would be fulfilled ...
- by the One who is coming.

Christ is the fulfillment of all the promises of God.

The promises of God ... 3:2-6

- ... touch every person.
- ... are fulfilled through the cleansing fire of the Messiah.
 - The refining fire purifies those who fear God.
 - The refining fire consumes those who do not fear God.

MAKING THIS REAL IN MY LIFE ...

When you are struggling with the goodness of God, look at the cross.

When you are hurting ...

- stay in the fire of affliction
- stay in the fire of self-denial

Quotes:

"All we truly need is God. Prone to wander from him, we find we need all sorts of other things. Our desire becomes insatiable because we've taken our longing for the Infinite and place it upon the finite. God saves us from the whole crazy mess by turning our hearts back to him." John Eldredge, *Dare to Desire*

COMING UP

Sunday December 9: Malachi 3:7-12