

Text: **Malachi 2:1-9**

I. God's Warning to the Priest,

A. Despise not the Calling of God,

i. Service contains Two Parts,

- **I Peter 2:9** “But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”

ii. The Curses,

- a) **Haggai 1:5-7** “Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.⁶Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages *to put it* into a bag with holes.⁷Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.”

iii. The Priest had forgotten their privilege to serve the Lord,

- **Genesis 49:5-7** “Simeon and Levi *are* brethren; instruments of cruelty *are in* their habitations.⁶O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall.⁷Cursed *be* their anger, for *it was* fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.”
- **Numbers 25:10-13** “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,¹¹Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.¹²Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:¹³And he shall have it, and his seed after him, *even* the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel. ”

iv. They have caused many to stumble,

- **II Timothy 2:15** “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ”
- **Matthew 7:3-5** “**And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?**⁴**Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye?**⁵**Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and **then** shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.**”
- **II Samuel 12:14** “Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, ...”