

I. Mal 2:1 "And now, O priests, this commandment is for you.

Mal 2:5 "'My covenant was with him, one of life and peace, And I gave them to him that he might fear Me; So he feared Me And was reverent before My name.

6 The law of truth was in his mouth, And injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, And turned many away from iniquity.

7 "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.

A. In this passage of scripture, God was dealing with the priests of Israel who were being negligent in their walk with God and ministry:

1. The Lord then reminds the priests of their major responsibility in ministry:

B. vs 5 THEY HAD A COVENANT WITH GOD:

1. "My covenant was with him" (Priests)

a. **First** it was a covenant of relation of the life they were to live before The Lord

b. **Secondly** a covenant of ministry responsibilities unto people

2. This covenant of the priests of God has not disappeared, but rather has been Enhanced thru the shed Blood of Jesus Christ:

a. Jer 31:33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

(1) Jeremiah is prophesying of the New Birth covenant of the New Testament

b. When celebrating the Pass Over Feast, Jesus introduces the new covenant:

(1) Matt 26:28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

3. Thru the Covenant of the Shed Blood of Jesus Christ, The Lord also changed The order of the priesthood:

a. Heb 7:12 For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.

13 For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.

14 For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

(1) vs 12 mentions "the priesthood being changed"

Vs 14 states: "another tribe":

(a) Jesus did not descend from the tribe of Levi nor the Levitical Priesthood

But from the tribe of Judah / The Tribe of praise

4. Now. Thru the New Birth every Born Again Christian as a covenant with God, and has been made a priest of God:
  - a. Rev 1:5 “To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father...”
  - b. Rev 5:10 And have made us kings and priests to our God;
5. This Priesthood Covenant that we have with The Lord:
  - a. Deals with our relationship with God & the life we live
  - b. and the responsibility of our ministry as Priests of God
6. This Priestly Covenant is not limited to the Fivefold Ministry Gifts of Eph 4:11
  - a. The Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Evangelist & Teacher
  - b. Rather: it applies to every Born Again Christian who have the responsibility to walk in and fulfill this Priestly Covenant

II. As Priests of God our Relationship with The Lord is described in:

A. Mal 2:5 “My covenant was with him, one of life and peace,”

1. As we faithfully live for The Lord Jesus Christ:

a. He will fill our hearts & lives with life & peace:

(1) “**LIFE**”: Jesus said in John 10:10 “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

(2) “**PEACE**” Def: welfare, health, prosperity, happiness & safety

(a) The Blessing of The Lord rests upon your house & life

2. Also in our covenant relationship with God we are to learn to “**fear The Lord**”

a. Mal 2:5 “And I gave them to him that he might fear Me; So he feared Me And was reverent before My name.

(1) as we develop a healthy Fear of The Lord in our heart, it causes us to be Reverent before The Lord

(2) The Amp Trans states: “reverent and worshipful

(a) In other words: the life we live, is a life of worship unto The Lord

(1) living a Holy Life

(2) living a surrendered life to the will of Our Heavenly Father

III. Next we discover a profound truth in regards to the Covenant and ministry every Born Again Priest of God is expected to fulfill during their life on earth:

A. Mal 2:6 “**The law of truth was in his mouth,**”

1. Every priest is expected to be well versed in scripture: ... know the word of God

a. so they can speak, confess, declare, teach, preach the word of God

(1) Col 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,

singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

(a) **Word:** “dwell in your **richly**” / **Def** abundantly

2. Do you understand that we cannot fulfill our Priestly Covenant & ministry if We remain ignorant of the scriptures?

a. Hos 4:6 “ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, **I also will reject you from being priest for Me;**

(1) If I lack knowledge of the word of God, If I am not functioning as a priest according to the Priestly Covenant of the Word of God: The Lord said He would reject my priesthood ....

(a) I am unable to be an effective priest of my home

(b) unable to be an effective priest in the life I am living

© unable to be an effective priest functioning in my ministry

3. Mal 2:6 “the **law of truth** was in his mouth”

a. The “LAW OF TRUTH” is the Word of God

(1) John 17:17 Jesus said: “ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

b. As a Priest of God, Our Heavenly Father has sent you the Holy Spirit to revelation & understanding of the truth of God’s Word:

(1) John 16:13 “He will guide you into all truth;”

4. If I fulfill the responsibility of my part of this Priestly Covenant of the Word of God and just like in Mal 2:6 “ The law of truth was in his (my) mouth”

a. God accepts & blesses our priesthood

b. Mal 2:6 describes the priest who has the “law of truth” in his mouth:

(1) “he (the priest) walked in peace and equity”

(a) this is the second time the word of God promise the priest would Experience the blessing of God’s **peace**:

(1) **Def Peace:** welfare, health, prosperity, happiness, & safety

(a) A blessed life & ministry

(2) **Def Equity:** level, straightness, uprightness, righteous

(a) my life & walk with Gog is straight / level

(1) not up & down

(b) my life & walk with God is upright & righteous ....

(1) no longer living a life of sin

(2) not living with a half hearted commitment to Jesus ... consistently Living for & serving The Lord Jesus Christ

III. The Priestly Covenant has contains the responsibility of reaching mankind with The truth of God’s Word ... The Good News .... The Gospel of Jesus Christ:

A. Mal 2:6 “**And turned many away from iniquity.**”

1. Part of the Priestly Covenant is to be a witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people bound in the darkness of sin:
  - a. Jesus said: Matt 4:19 "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
    - (1) Jesus did not just tell us to "Follow" Him
    - (2) But also said He would make us: **FISHERS OF MEN**" / soul winners
    - (3) Are we fulfilling our Priestly Covenant and seeing people turn from sin To Jesus thru our priestly ministry
  - b. 2 Cor 5:18 "18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and **has given us the ministry of reconciliation**, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and **has committed to us the word of reconciliation**.  
 20 Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.
    - (1) Thru the Priestly Covenant of the Word of God:
      - (a) vs 18 God has "given us the ministry of reconciliation"  
 Vs 19 God has "committed to us the word of reconciliation"
        - (1) every Born Again believer has the priestly ministry of winning souls  
 By witnessing the Word of God / Preaching the Word of God / Teaching The Word of God to souls lost in their sin
        - (2) Because: **"WE ARE THE AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST"**
          - (a) We are God's ambassadors / representatives / spokes person on the earth

III. Lets look at the responsibility of fulfilling our Priestly Covenant as the "Ambassadors of Christ" here in this present world:

Mal 2:7 "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge,  
 And people should seek the law from his mouth;  
 For he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.

A. Once again we see the importance of the Believer / the Priest of God being Grounded in the Word of God:

1. **"For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge"**

- a. The knowledge spoken of in this verse is referring to the knowledge found in TRUTH / The Word of God
- b. and it is the "Lips of the Priest"
  - (1) who is to be witnessing, speaking, declaring, teaching, prophesying the Knowledge of God's Word
    - (a) in the church
    - (b) in our homes ... to our family, friends & neighbors

© on the job

(d) in society, in political arena, in the judicial system, in educational system

2. vs 7 “**and people should seek the law from his (the priest) mouth**)

a. as people hear us speaking the word of God

(1) they will come to us in their time of need & desperation

(2) and they coming to hear the law / the word of God from our mouth

(a) they are not going to come for our personal opinion

(b) they are not going to come to hear what everyone else is saying

(1) If they kind find a priest who has the word in their mouth, they will come to you to hear TRUTH

(2) they will come looking for answers to their issues they face in life

(3) They will come to hear a promise from God / His LAW / God’s WORD

(4) they are not coming to hear some watered down / user friendly version

Of The Gospel .... They will come to hear the TRUTH OF GOD’S  
WORD FROM YOUR LIPS

B. Which brings me to who we are in this present world as a Priest of God:

1. Mal 2:7 “For He (The Priest) is the **MESSENGER of The Lord**”

a. **Def Messenger:** to dispatch as a deputy, an ambassador, a prophet, priest, teacher withy a message

2. As a Priest of God, when was the last time you looked at yourself as a Messenger with a message from God

a. be it a prophetic word

b. a word of encouragement, promise from scripture to a brother / sister in Christ

c. or the counsel of God, bringing The Lord’s knowledge to an individual about a situation they are facing

d. or as a witness, with the Gospel of Jesus Christ upon your lips to a lost soul

C. Prov 25:13 “Like the cold of snow in time of harvest

Is a **faithful messenger** to those who send him,

For he refreshes the soul of his masters.

1. As a Priest of God, can you look at your life and say:

a. I am a “**faithful messenger**”

b. I impart the knowledge of the Word of God to those God brings my way

I am a faithful witness, sharing the good news to the lost

(1) to the point that I refresh the heart of my Master Jesus Christ

D. Mal 3:1 "Behold, I send **My messenger**, And he will prepare the way before Me.  
And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple,  
Even the Messenger of the covenant Jesus), In whom you delight.  
Behold, He is coming," Says the Lord of hosts".

1. This scripture is a prophecy of two major events:
  - a. #1 The coming of the messenger John The Baptist, who thru his preaching prepared the way of The Lord when Jesus came to be the sacrificial Lamb of God
  - b. #2 This is also a prophecy of the second coming of Jesus Christ who will once again suddenly appear in His temple:
    - (1) The issue is not: Is Jesus coming
    - (2) The real issue is: will we be His messengers?
      - (a) preparing the way for the return of Jesus Christ by each of us being  
A faithful priest and fulfilling our ministries  
A faithful messenger by witnessing to the lost
2. Will we each our responsibility of the Priestly Covenant
  - a. with our personal relationship with God
  - b. with our responsibilities to mankind