

# Malachi Men - Participant's Introduction

## **God's Plan and Man's Purpose:**

God created the universe and all it contains (Gen 1:1 - earth, stars, plants, animals, man, etc.). God gave us His word (the Bible) so we could know Him, understand His creation, and fulfill our intended purpose. According to the Bible, man's purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever (1 Corinthians 10:31). How can this be done? Only God can enable man to live as God originally intended. Man can't accomplish this by himself.

God made man in His image (Gen 1:26) and gave him dominion over all creation (Gen 1:27-28). Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and all of creation suffered (Gen 3:1-19). Man now needs both forgiveness and a new heart. Throughout the Old Testament we are shown that good works cannot save us. Men are unable to keep God's law perfectly. No matter how good a person appears to be they break God's commandments in their heart: they covet a new car, lust after a woman, or are not truthful. God hates sin. He is a holy God who keeps heaven holy. The law, which reflects God's character, shows us our need of a savior. Christ's voluntary, sacrificial, death on the cross provides the only payment God will accept for our sins. If we confess with our lips and believe in our heart that Jesus is Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9), God offers forgiveness of sins, but we must also turn from our sin and ask Him to take over control of our lives, surrendering our will to His will (John 15:4 & 10). Man is never fulfilled or satisfied until he turns his life over to Christ as Lord and Savior. Saint Francis of Assisi is reported to have said, "Every man has a God shaped void that can only be filled by asking God to come in and take over."

## **Goal of the Malachi Men Facilitators:**

Christ told His followers to make disciples (Matthew 28:19). Christ taught that preaching the truth (God's Word) would lead to setting men free from sin (John 8:31-32, 2 Timothy 2:24-26). The facilitators in this program are also sinners who are now following God's savior. That savior is Jesus Christ, the only Savior who died and rose again (Acts 4:12). Only through Jesus Christ can anyone be saved from eternal punishment and lead a life that glorifies God. Our desire is for each of you to become a follower of Christ, and live as a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

All of our teaching is based on the Bible, and our belief that everything written in the Bible is absolutely true (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Our goal over the next twelve weeks is to give you a biblical roadmap for living. God's word has the answers for all of life's trials (Joshua 1:8). During our time together we will explore what God has to say about the following subjects: Creation, Sin, Salvation, Sanctification, The Church, Marriage God's Way, and Parenting God's Way.

We are striving to bring God glory by putting off the old sinful man, and putting on the new godly man (Ephesians 4:22-24). Our prayer is that each of you also will develop deeper roots in Christ, strengthening your faith and usefulness to our Creator. By living to please God you will be a blessing to your family and find true peace and satisfaction.

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## Goals for Malachi Men:

- To biblically present God and His plan for history
- To provide practical, biblical, advice for life, marriage and parenting
- To show how a person becomes a follower of Jesus Christ
- To demonstrate how to grow as a follower of Jesus Christ
- To give practice in developing godly habits: Bible study, prayer, Scripture memory, accountability, and participation in one-another's

## Participant Requirements:

- Attend weekly meetings for 12 weeks
- Do individual/group work and homework
- Bring homework & Bible to each meeting
- Attend a church service weekly at your local facility
- Keep a weekly Bible reading record (part of homework).
- Memorize 11 verses
- Agree to discussion rules

## Discussion Rules:

- Only one person talks at a time
- No disrespectful comments
- Only positive, respectful, language
- Talk about yourself, not others
- Allow others to talk (don't monopolize the discussion)
- No horseplay

## My Personal Commitment:

I desire to participate in the Malachi Men discipling program. I am willing to be discipled and to be held accountable to my group. I understand the participant requirements and discussion rules, and agree to comply with them. My signature below indicates my commitment to this program.

Participants name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 14:23 In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.