



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

“Surely the Day is Coming” December 16-18, 2017

(Malachi 4) "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. {2} But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. {3} Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty. {4} "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. {5} "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. {6} He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

1. On a scale of 1-10, how ready are you for Christmas? (10 = “I wish it were here today” and 1 = “I wish it would never come.”)

2. Using the same scale, how ready are you for Judgment Day?

3. What parallels do you see between our world today and a 6th grade classroom without a teacher present?

4. The people of Malachi's day said, *“It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements? Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.”* (Malachi 3:14-15). Why might someone say the same thing today?

5. Until Jesus returns, why should Christian expect to endure persecution? (cf. Matthew 24:9-14; John 15:18-19)

6. Read Matthew 25:31-46 and John 3:16-18. What verdicts will Jesus hand down on Judgment Day? On whom?

7. Agree/disagree: God uses the threat of hell to get people to behave.

8. What will Judgment Day mean for the bodies of believers?

9. What effect does a future Day of Judgment have on your present life on earth? (Let your answer reflect both Law and Gospel).