



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

The Gift of Peace December 9, 2018

(Malachi 3:1-4)

“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; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

1. **Lk.2:14** *“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”* According to the angels on that first Christmas, which people would experience the “peace” of which they sang and why is this so?
2. Who is the “messenger” of whom Malachi speaks in Mal.3:1 and what was his purpose?

3. What is the “peace” which Jesus came to bring into this world and how does a sinner acquire this ‘peace’?
4. Explain the images of a “refiner’s fire” and a “launderer’s soap” and then explain what ‘spiritual encounter’ Malachi is describing with the images of “a refiner’s fire” and a “launderer’s soap?”
5. What two things must happen in a sinner’s heart in order for him or her to find the “peace with God” that Jesus created for all people? (Think here of God’s Law and his Gospel)
6. According to Mal.3:3,4, what change does the Lord accomplish through his word in the hearts of the sinners he encounters and what new ability do they have as a result of this change?
7. Explain how Christians can share the peace of God with others in their advent preparation and how at the same time Christians can live the peace of God as they prepare for the Christmas celebration.