



God's Way or Ours?
Malachi 4:1-6 TLB
Thoughts to Ponder

1. Long before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Malachi confronted God's people: "The day of judgment is coming." (Malachi 4:1 TLB)
 - a. They acted like God's people one day each week, but the rest of the week their lives revealed only a surface relationship with God. Is that how others see you?
 - b. They knew the ways and words of God, but they doubted God's judgment. Could that be said of you?

2. To prepare for the coming of the Lord, we must first accept the truth that we will be judged.
 - a. Many folks see God as being "kind, tolerant, benevolent and a regular nice guy – sort of like a personal valet." Is that how you view God? If not, explain your view.
 - b. Do you see God's coming judgment as a negative happening? If so, why?

3. The second step in preparing for the coming of the Lord is to confess our sins.
 - a. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves." (1 John 1:8 ESV) Are you being honest about the gap between God's expectations of you and the reality of who you are?
 - b. What unconfessed sins are weighing you down?

4. The final step in preparing for the coming of the Lord is to repent, to radically change our ways so as to conform to God's ways.
 - a. Jesus said, "So be prepared, for you don't know what day your Lord is coming." (Matthew 24:42 TLB) How would you change your life if you knew Jesus was coming next Thursday?
 - b. You don't know He isn't, so why are you delaying the change?

