

Title: Lip Service

Text: Malachi 2:5-8

Target: A saving faith was never intended to be a secret faith, but instead a shared faith.

- I. **Ascribe-Worth to God:** *“He stood in awe of my name.”* (vs. 2:5)
 - A. **Created you:** *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...”* (Jeremiah 1:5a)
 - B. **Consecrated you:** *“Before you were born I consecrated you...”* (Jeremiah 1:5b)
 - C. **Called you:** *“I appointed you a prophet to the nation.”* (Jeremiah 1:5c)
 - D. **Covered you:** *“I have put my words in your mouth”* (Jeremiah 1:9)

- II. **Acquainted with the Word of God:** *“True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips.”* (vs. 2:6a)
 - A. **Appetite for the Word:** *“I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.”* (Job 23:12)
 - B. **Abide in the Word:** *“his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.”* (Psalm 1:2)
 - C. **Apply the Word:** *“be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* (James 1:22)

- III. **Aligned to Walk with God:** *“He walked with me in peace and uprightness”* (vs. 2:6b)
 - A. **Walk Faithfully:** *(Enoch walked with God) “he was commended as having pleased God.”* (Hebrews 11:5)
 - B. **Walk Humbly:** *“to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”* (Micah 6:8)
 - C. **Walk Blamelessly:** *“walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”* (Ephesians 4:1)
 - D. **Walk Victoriously:** *“You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that I may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.”* (Deuteronomy 5:33)

- IV. **Appointed to Witness for God:** *“and he turned many from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.”* (vs. 2:6b-7)
 - A. **Not ashamed of Jesus:** *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel”* (Romans 1:16a)
 - B. **Not afraid to share Jesus:** *“...for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...”* (Romans 1:16b)
 1. What do you think it takes to get to heaven?
 2. Do you mind if I tell you how the Bible answers that question?
 3. Would you like to accept Jesus as your Savior?
 4. Admit (Rom. 3:23) Believe (Rom. 5:8) Call (Rom. 10:13)

Sermon Discussion Questions:

Have you ever found yourself just going through the motions of worshipping God or just playing church? We can thwart these feelings and seasons of complacency by turning our attention to

the person and character of God. When we start there, we can't help but find ourselves ascribing praise, honor, and glory to Him. When we focus our attention on God, we will ultimately want more of Him...to know more and be closer to Him. As we then study God's word, we will undoubtedly desire to align with Him and walk more closely. We begin to listen for and to the Holy Spirit for guidance and discernment. This abiding leads us to sharing Jesus with a lost world that so desperately needs Him. There is a rhythm and a challenge here. Do you see it?

Many of us may ask the question "how do I get started on this rhythm?" Paul offers us another template in Romans 12:1-2. Take a moment to read this passage. What does Paul mean by "the transforming of our minds?" Why does this renewal bring us to a place of "presenting ourselves as living sacrifices?" How does this mind renewal stand in juxtaposition to conforming to this world? In what ways can you, this week, ascribe worth and praise to God? Acquaint yourself with the word of God? Be aligned to walk more closely with God? And use your testimony as a witness for the goodness, grace, and mercy of God?

Takeaway: 3 Circles

