

It's LOVE WEEK END.

"Praise the Lord, all you nations. Praise him, all you people of the earth. FOR *he loves us with unfailing love*; the Lord's faithfulness endures forever. Praise the Lord."

Psalm 117:1-2

Congress Strikes \$789 Billion Stimulus Deal

Tax Cuts—276 billion

Payroll tax credit--\$400 workers/\$800 for couples

First-time home buyers—No repayment requirement for a \$7,500 credit

New-car purchases—Limited tax breaks on loan interest and sales taxes

Health Insurance—Extra assistance for the unemployed

Health Technology—Physicians would get bonuses of as much as \$64,000 for computerized records systems.

Small business—Unprofitable firms with annual receipts of less than \$5 million can recoup taxes paid in the past 5 years.

Questions for congress:

-Is it fair?

-Does it help those in real difficulty?

-Is the education of our children a priority?

-Are the poor really helped?

Stimulus Deluxe

"(v.6) I am the LORD, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already completely destroyed. (v.7) Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my laws and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

"But you ask, 'How can we return when we have never gone away?'" (v.8) "Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!" But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?'"

"You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. (v.9) You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. (v.10) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD Almighty, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you! (v.11) Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not shrivel before they are ripe," says the LORD Almighty. (v.12) "Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight," says the LORD Almighty."

Malachi 3:6-12

New Living Translation

Let's square up:

- This is not an attack on Congress, but is a load of serious questions about the direction of America.
- Ultimately we all live in God's world—Big, Glorious, and full of Opportunities to Help, Heal, and Forgive.
- Where does God's start with people?

1-Reality = that He is in charge and unchangeable. (v.6)

"I am the LORD, and I do not change."

2-He has been merciful throughout history or we wouldn't be here today! (v.6a-7a)

"That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already completely destroyed. Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my laws and failed to obey them."

3-He calls us to repent of our sins; both personal and national.

"Now return to me, and I will return to you says the LORD Almighty." (v.7b)

4-We still like to play games and pretend we are not sinners.

"But you ask, 'How can we return when we have never gone away?' (v.7c)

5-God answers our lies with His truth **AND** he lays out his stimulus plan for our recovery.

A—"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple!" (v.10a)

B—"If you do, says the LORD Almighty, 'I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in!" (v.10b)

C—"Try it!

"Let me prove it to you! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease." (v.10c & v.11a)

6-"Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight." (v.12)

1 out of 10

10 out of a 100

100 out of 1,000

1,000 out of 10,000

10,000 out of 100,000.

Now that is real stimulus! Let's carry it out together.

2/15/09--RJB