

A group of people are seated at a table in a restaurant, dining. The scene is dimly lit with warm, ambient lighting. In the foreground, a hand is visible holding a fork over a plate of food. A glass of white wine and a dark bottle are also on the table. The background shows other diners and the interior of the restaurant, which is slightly out of focus. A semi-transparent dark rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

Glorify the Creator

Mal 3:1-6

“The Wondrous Relationship of the Creator with the New Creature”

Mal. 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in:

behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for **he is like a refiner's fire**, and like fullers' soap:

3 And **he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver**: and **he shall purify** the sons of Levi, **and purge them as gold and silver**, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

5 And **I will come near to you to judgment**; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in *his* wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger *from his right*, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

6 For **I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.**

Review

The meaning of life, why we are here, the purpose of mankind's existence, has been intriguing for many thinkers for many centuries:

“To have a purpose in life was a wealth that could never be measured.”

— **Danielle Bennett, Dragon Soul**

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/purpose-of-life?page=2>

Often profundity is wrapped in simplicity – such profundity is found in this simple statement:

- Mankind exists to honor and glorify the Creator by obediently doing His will, for His glory.
- Such a profound plan includes...

“The Wondrous Relationship of the Creator with the New Creature”

I. THE CREATOR'S INVOLVEMENT WITH HIS NEW CREATURE

- A. The Creator's Plan = we are created for His glory.
- B. The Creature's Problem = sin causes us to fall short of His glory.
- C. The Christian's Privilege = at salvation, we are adopted into His family.

II. THE CREATOR'S INSPIRATION FOR HIS NEW CREATURE

- A. The Contrasting Relationships
 - B. The Conforming Reconstruction
- Once a person is born-again, the conformation of spiritual characteristics identify us with the Lord Jesus Christ “...**to be conformed to the image of his Son...**”
- Col. 3:10 And have **put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: ...**

III. THE CREATOR'S INTENTION FOR HIS NEW CREATURE

A. God's Design for His New Creature = Be like Christ.

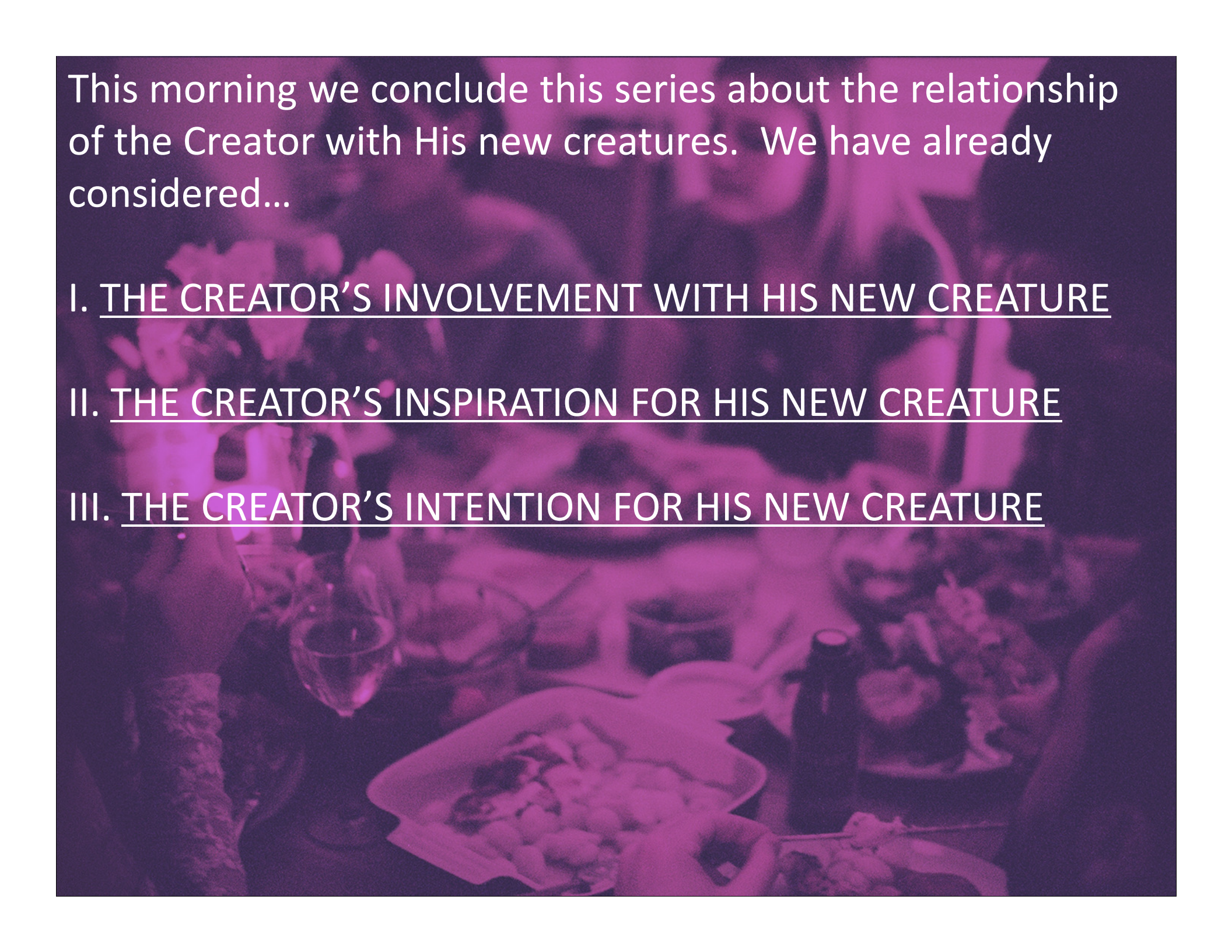
B. God's Desire for His New Creature = Be obedient to do the will of God.

C. God's Development of His New Creature = Be growing, spiritually.

- Our Creator likens Himself as a potter and we, the clay.
- As we yield our hearts to the Potter, we ARE HIS CLAY!

Isa. 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father; **we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.**

- Each of us is His creation, for His glory – we walk by faith to please Him according to His will for our lives.

A photograph of a group of people dining at a restaurant, overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The scene shows several people seated around a table, with various dishes, glasses, and a bottle visible. The lighting is warm, and the overall atmosphere is social and relaxed.

This morning we conclude this series about the relationship of the Creator with His new creatures. We have already considered...

I. THE CREATOR'S INVOLVEMENT WITH HIS NEW CREATURE

II. THE CREATOR'S INSPIRATION FOR HIS NEW CREATURE

III. THE CREATOR'S INTENTION FOR HIS NEW CREATURE

A group of people are seated at a table in a restaurant, dining. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. In the foreground, there are plates of food, including what appears to be a large platter of dumplings or small pastries, and several glasses. The background shows other diners and the interior of the restaurant.

As we saw in the brief film, the process and purpose of the refiner's fire is to produce a product of purity.

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might **sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,**

27 That he might **present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

Now, we consider...

IV. THE CREATOR'S INSPECTION OF HIS NEW CREATURE

Mal. 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: **behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.**

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for **he is like a refiner's fire**, and like fullers' soap:

3 And **he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver**: and **he shall purify** the sons of Levi, **and purge them as gold and silver**, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

A. The Refiner's Fire is for Purification – the Present godliness

- The refining process is due to inherent impurities:

Prov. 26:23 Burning lips and **a wicked heart** are like a potsherd covered with **silver dross**.

Prov. 25:4 **Take away the dross** from the silver, and there shall come forth **a vessel for the finer**.

- The purpose = to become a better vessel for the finer –
“...and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.

2 Tim. 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, **he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use**, and prepared unto every good work.

- The refining process reveals the heart:

Prov. 17:3 The fining pot *is* for silver, and the furnace for gold: but **the LORD trieth the hearts**.

Jer. 17:10 **I the LORD search the heart**, I try the reins, even to give every man **according to his ways**, and **according to the fruit of his doings**.

1 Thess. 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; **not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts**.

- The heart is the source of our actions:

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for **out of it** are the issues of life.

Mt. 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth **come forth from the heart**; and they defile the man.

19 For **out of the heart** proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

- Some will not be refined = reprobate silver:

Jer. 6:29 The bellows are burned, the lead is consumed of the fire; **the founder melteth in vain**: for the wicked are not plucked away.

30 **Reprobate silver** shall *men* call them, **because the LORD hath rejected them.**

2 Chron. 36:15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; **because he had compassion on his people**, and on his dwelling place:

16 But they **mocked the messengers of God**, and **despised his words**, and **misused his prophets**, until the wrath of the LORD arose **against his people, till *there was no remedy***.

Prov. 1:24 Because I have called, and **ye refused**; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But **ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof**:

26 I also will laugh at **your calamity**; I will mock when **your fear** cometh;

27 When **your fear** cometh as desolation, and **your destruction** cometh as a whirlwind; when **distress and anguish** cometh upon you.

28 **Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer**; they shall seek me early, but they shall **not find me**:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

30 **They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.**

31 **Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.**

B. The Refiner's Fire is for Preparation – the Prospective glory

Mal. 3:4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, **as in the days of old, and as in former years.**

5 And **I will come near to you to judgment**; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in *his* wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger *from his right*, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

6 For **I am the LORD, I change not**; therefore **ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.**

- The purification is preparation for future glory:

Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: **when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.**

- The refining by fire is painful:

Isa. 48:10 **Behold, I have refined thee**, but not with silver; I have chosen thee **in the furnace of affliction**.

Zech. 13:9 And I will bring the third part **through the fire**, and **will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried**: they shall call on my name, **and I will hear them**: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

- The fiery trial is for refinement, not judgment:

Mal. 3:6 For **I am the LORD, I change not**; therefore **ye sons of Jacob are not consumed**.

**“When I understand that
everything happening to me
is to make me more Christlike,
it resolves a great deal of anxiety.”
~A.W. Tozer**



<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/534732155747155017/>

- The fiery trial intensifies our fellowship with Christ:

Dan. 3:24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, *and* spake, and said unto his counsellors, **Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?**

They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, **Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire,** and they have no hurt; and **the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**



**"AS SURE AS GOD PUTS
HIS CHILDREN IN THE
FURNACE OF
AFFLICTION,
HE WILL BE WITH
THEM IN IT."**

— CHARLES H. SPURGEON

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https://www.google.com/search?q=Leonard+Ravenhill+quote+-+the+refiner%27s+fire&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=Tg1DrjRI26_jaM%253A%252CIpTiatsmp3m9oM%252C_&usg=__Diigc0SDZu9NjBA1oM_AFM2ykrSU%3D&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwih_5CttJ_cAhWI5oMKHU76DrcQ9QEIRzAE#imgrc=DpwYc9MVUWGVmM

- Faith untested is anemic and stagnant.



<http://www.cindybultema.com/lessons-from-the-refiners-fire/>

- The refining fire is preparing us to glorify Christ:

1 Pet. 1:7 That **the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, **might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**

1 Pet. 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning **the fiery trial which is to try you**, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, **when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**

- At the Judgment Seat of Christ, we face the final test of purification:

1 Cor. 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because **it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.**

14 **If any man's work abide** which he hath built thereupon, **he shall receive a reward.**

15 **If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss:** but he himself shall be saved; yet **so as by fire.**

1 Cor. 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and **then shall every man have praise of God.**

Conclusion

- The principle of the refiner's fire is to develop the maturity and purity of believers:

1 Chron. 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for **the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts**: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

- As we have considered the guidance from Rom. 8:28-29, let's be reminded of verse 27:

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good **to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.**

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate ***to be conformed to the image of his Son***, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom. 8:27 And **he that searcheth the hearts** knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints **according to *the will of God*.**

- When we face any fiery trials, remember the Lord will not forsake us:

Heb. 13:5b “...for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**”

Isa. 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine.

2 When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: **when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.**

4 Since **thou wast precious in my sight**, thou hast been honourable, and **I have loved thee**: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

5 **Fear not: for I am with thee**: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

7 *Even* every one that is called by my name: for **I have created him for my glory**, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.