

*Living Excellent Lives*  
**Living Excellent Lives Spiritually**

**I. Introduction**

- A. A prophet named Malachi was commissioned by God with one purpose in mind, to reestablish standards of excellence among His people!
- B. “When you make a worship offering to Me, make it an excellent worship offering!”
- C. Malachi 1:8-10 (NLT) *<sup>8</sup>“When you give blind animals as sacrifices, isn’t that wrong? And isn’t it wrong to offer animals that are crippled and diseased? Try giving gifts like that to your governor, and see how pleased he is!” says the LORD Almighty. <sup>9</sup>“Go ahead, beg God to be merciful to you! But when you bring that kind of offering, why should he show you any favor at all?” asks the LORD Almighty. <sup>10</sup>“I wish that someone among you would shut the Temple doors so that these worthless sacrifices could not be offered! I am not at all pleased with you,” says the LORD Almighty, “and I will not accept your offerings.”*
- D. The Old Testament is filled with the excellent acts of God!
- E. John 3:16 (NAS) *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*
- F. Jesus redefined excellence in every way!
- G. I Corinthians 2:9 (NLT) *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”*

**II. Applications of Malachi 1 to Our Daily Lives**

- A. If you’re living with a commitment less than a full commitment to God, you’re offering a “blemished lamb!”
  - 1. Anything less than full devotion to Jesus Christ is abnormal for a follower of Jesus!
  - 2. “Make an excellent commitment back to Me! Bring Me the very best commitment you can bring!”
- B. God deserves a sincere form of affection from us!
  - 1. Romans 12:1 (NAS) *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*
- C. God deserves our best service to Him with the gifts and talents He’s given us!
  - 1. The standard in the Bible is your best!

**III. “When God Has Given You All the Excellence He Has, What Will You Give Him in Return?”**

- A. Sometimes I wonder what would happen in our church if all of us were giving God our best lambs!

**IV. Conclusion**