

# BIDDEFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

266 POOL STREET - P.O. BOX 331 - BIDDEFORD, ME 04005

SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

## THE REFINER AND PURIFIER BY DENNIS GODIN

You may recall that our theme for this year, found in Lamentations 3:22-23, finds its roots during a desperate time in Israel's history. Because of their rebellion, God's people were thrust into slavery and overwhelming despair. Lamentations 1:1, "How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow is she, who was great among the nations! The princes among the provinces has become a slave!" What a tragic scene. History shows us that God's people seem to go in cycles; living lives committed to their Lord and then getting caught up in the broken and dark world around them. The whole scene of our theme verse is a story of God's unwavering love for His children, doing all He can, even the tough things like discipline, to turn His children back.

*He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver;  
He will purify the sons of Levi,  
and purge them  
as gold and silver, that they  
may offer to the Lord  
an offering in righteousness.*

**Malachi 3:3**

While I was thinking about this, I heard some discussion about the letter of Malachi and the sad state of affairs that were once again taking place with God's people. Although there



could be much to reflect on from this little book, my attention was drawn to the verse above as it describes the care of God towards His rebellious people. Although the image given may not always be due to rebellion, as we will see in a minute, the desired goal of our Lord remains constant; that is, our personal growth to serve Him more fully in our lives.

*Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;  
I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.*

**Isaiah 48:10**

The first picture that comes to mind is that of a refiner and purifier who sits as he patiently tends to the process of readying the silver for use. The word translated "*refiner*" is used in other places. For instance, in Psalm 66:10 the ETRV

## SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

**SUNDAY**  
**BIBLE CLASS 9:30 A.M.**  
**WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.**  
**MID-WEEK STUDY**  
**TUESDAY 7-8 P.M.**  
**(BIDDEFORD)**

### Elders

Tony Lemay (207)651-3369  
Dennis Godin (207)651-3588

### Deacons

John Carter (207)229-8516  
Matt Sampson (207)251-3030

### Ministry Leaders & Staff

Education - Antonio Balsamo  
(207)286-0514  
Youth - Angel Velez  
(207)730-9889  
Worship - Abe Damuth  
(207)608-1784  
Building - Joe Romano  
(207)281-3929  
Grounds - Lenny Spano  
(207)569-8800  
Fin./Benev. - John Carter  
(207)229-8516  
Fellowship - Matt Sampson  
(207)251-3030  
Secretary - Mike Wickwar  
(207) 432-2272

### Ladies Ministry

Debbie Godin (207)286-4821  
Barbara Lemay (207)850-0084

# BIDDEFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## AS EACH PART DOES ITS WORK

How important is encouragement to you? Note someone you have not seen in worship lately and give them a call or send them a card. Who knows, your words of encouragement could make an eternal difference.

**"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" - Acts 16:30**

**Hear** the Gospel - John 6:44-45; Romans 10:14, 17

**Believe** [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31; Heb 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

**Confess** Christ - Mt 10:32-33; Ac 8:36-37; Rom 10:8-10

**Be baptized** - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16; 1 Pet 3:21

**Be faithful** unto death - Mt 7:21; 10:22; Heb 5:9; Rev 2:10

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*"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

~ Acts 4:12 ~

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## **Ladies Corner**

*Please contact Debbie or Barbara to help plan future events*

Thank You,  
*Debbie and Barbara*

Last Week's Numbers:

Attendance: 43 Contribution: \$ 1917.00

## "THE REFINER AND PURIFIER"

(CONTINUED)

says, "God *tested* us, like people test silver with fire." The word carries with it the idea to "strain" or "sift." The refiner, as he works the silver through the use of heat, is seeking to separate the lead sulfide ore from the silver. The heating process would change the lead sulfide to lead oxide, which in a powered condition would be blown away with the use of hot air. Great care is needed by the purifier in order for the desired product to be revealed. This, of course, is the next part of the picture we see in Malachi 3:3. God is working to bring about change in His people, especially the priests of the Old Testament, who have defiled their duties as prescribed by God. Thus, the refining process had a purpose; that is, "that they may offer to the Lord an offering of righteousness." God was seeking to bring out the best that is in His people, even when they have lost sight of their potential.

*Take away the dross from silver, and it will go to the silversmith for jewelry.*

*Proverbs 25:4*

As Christians, we are more than familiar with the verses that speak of such refinement. Bible verses like James 1:2, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials..." or 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:6, "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials..." quickly come to mind. In them, we realize that God, the Refiner, is still in the refining business. He is either seeking to direct us back or make us more of what we can be to the glory of His name. Our prayer to You O Lord, is when the hot air of adversity blows across us, that what remains is a more perfect image of You.

*Dennis*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We're on Facebook**– Biddeford church of Christ is on Facebook! There is a profile, which is public, and there is a closed group, for current Biddeford church family only, where we can share photos, prayer requests, announcements, etc. The public cannot see posts in the BCOC FB group. Only members can.

**Men Leading in Worship** - The men who serve in worship are asked to meet in the cry room or, if it is in use, a classroom promptly at 10:30 to confirm assignments and go to God in prayer.

**Building Lights** - If you are the last person leaving the building, please be sure to turn off all the lights, check that all windows are shut, and the doors are locked.

**Bulletin /- Prayer List** - If you have a prayer request or an announcement for the bulletin, please contact Mike Wickwar at 432-2272 or email him at mickwick@yahoo.com by Friday of each week. Anything given after Friday may not make it into that Sunday's bulletin.

**Reminder:** Please turn off your cell phone or place it on vibrate during Bible study and worship.

**We care what you think** - If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, feel free to write them down on a piece of paper, then sign it and place it in the box. We will get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks for your help.

**Monthly Bulletins**– One per family, please. If you would like another copy, you can find it on our website, biddefordchurchofchrist.com. You can also listen to sermons on the website.

**Updating the Prayer List** - Please review the prayer list. If there is a prayer request initiated by you, it is important you contact Mike Wickwar with updates. Thank you.

**Upcoming Events** - Please check your calendars

**Life Groups**– October 6th and October 20th.

**Congregational Breakfast** - October 12th at 8:30 am.

**Singing Nights** - October 22th.

<b>Happy Birthday!</b>	Matthew Sampson	October	4th
	Antonio Balsamo	October	5th
	Candis Lawrance	October	6th
	Luke Lawrance	October	18th
	Jacob Romano	October	26th
	Glory Parker	October	28th
	Harper Erickson	October	29th

**Happy Anniversary!** Dennis & Debbie Godin      October 18th

***Box tops for Education - Douglas Marescot -Container Upstairs - Ongoing***

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## MID-WEEK BIBLE CLASSES

Biddeford  
Tuesdays  
7:00-8:00 p.m.



YOUR ATTENDANCE WOULD BE SUCH AN ENCOURAGEMENT!

## ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR TODAY

**Song 10 *A Mighty Fortress***

**Announcements** - Angel Velez

**Opening Prayer** - Elder

**Song 216 *O Thou Fount Of Every Blessing***

**Song 350 *When My Love To Christ Grows Weak***

**Lord's Supper** - Angel Velez, James  
Butler, Erik Cote

**Song 745 *Humble Thyself***

**Contribution**

**Song 837 *I Need Thee Every Hour***

**Prayer** - Joe Romano

**Song 490 *It Is Well With My Soul***

**Scripture Reading** - TJ Balsamo

Text - Psalm 66:8-12

**Lesson** - Dennis Godin

*The Refiner And Purifier*

Lesson Text: *Malachi 3:3*

**Song 851 *I'll Fly Away***

**Closing Prayer** - Tony Lemay



Song Leader: Robert Balsamo

Greeter: Jessica Damuth

Communion Prep: Brenda Butler

### NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE:

**Song Leader** - James Butler

**Opening Prayer** - Shepherd

**Lord's Supper** - Angel Velez, Antonio  
Balsamo, Justin Crawford

**Prayer** - Matthew Sampson

**Scripture Reading** - Rufilo Lawrance

**Greeter** - Brenda Horowitz

**Communion Prep** - Deborah Godin

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WELCOME VISITORS



We here at the Biddeford church of Christ pray your visit with us today is enjoyable and uplifting. Please stay around after services so that we can get to know you better. We all strive to put Christ first in our lives and make the Bible our principle guide for living.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.BIDDEFORDCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM](http://WWW.BIDDEFORDCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM)

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