

A Great Privilege - To Offer A Sacrifice To God (2)

Introduction

- A. One of the greatest privileges, ever given to man, is to be able to offer a gift to God. When we consider our sinful and unrighteous condition before becoming a Christian - and now can offer a sacrifice to God - we start to realize how extensively the grace of God has changed our spiritual condition.
- B. The Old Testament burnt sacrifice sets the pattern for our gifts* When the sacrifice was given it was an obedient, voluntary, spiritual, personal act as a transaction with God of complete surrender which was pleasing to Him.

I. The Basis of our Sacrificial Gifts to God. '

- A. The work of the Lord Jesus Christ Who offered Himself as our Sacrifice.

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. Eph. 5:2

Observation: In this sacrifice of Himself, Jesus Christ suffered our judgment for sin and died our death. He made it possible for us to become forgiven, adopted into God's family and accepted by God.

- B. The office of the priesthood which has been given to every believer.

Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ
I Peter 2:5

Observation: The Christian has been made a priest and can offer sacrifices to God that please Him.

II. The Primary Sacrifice to be Given by the Believer: Himself.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1,2

Observation: God expects us to give ourselves and everything we are, have and will have to Himself So that we may be a living sacrifice. When we honestly do this, and renew it every day, then we can receive His transforming grace to be free from sin and to do His will.

III. Additional Sacrifices - Well Pleasing to God.

- A. The sacrifice of service for God, Philippians 2:17.

Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

Observation: Through Paul's sacrificial service the people at Philippi had become Christians. They had joined him in serving God. They also prayed for Paul and supported him financially. Such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

B. The sacrifice of money given to God, Philippians 4:18,19.

But I have all and abound, I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Observation: The believers at Philippi exported Paul financially. He said this was "a sweetsmelling sacrifice, acceptable and well-pleasing to God." He reminded them that God would supply their need – since they had given themselves to God.

C. The sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, Hebrews 13:15.

By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name.

Observation: This is one area where all believers have failed. We are not thankful as we ought to be nor do we praise and worship God as we should. We were created and redeemed to worship and praise God – we need to learn how to do this and then choose each day. to be engaged in this most necessary form of sacrifice.

D. The sacrifice of good deeds in Christian fellowship, Hebrews 13:16.

But to do good and to communicate (fellowship) forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well-pleased.

Observation: Christians have been united to one another as members in a body. We are mutually dependent on one another. When we recognize this truth and choose to do "good" with and for one another in Christian fellowship – that is a sacrifice with which God is pleased. When Paul was imprisoned for his faith he had to say, ". . . no man stood with me (II Timothy 4:16). Many Christians have had to go through a difficult time alone. This is not right. God has given us to one another. We must have compassion for each other and give ourselves as a sacrifice to help each other.

E. These sacrifices which enable us to serve other believers are described in the Bible as a gift to God, Matthew 25:40.

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.

Observation: This verse is a part of the description of what distinguishes Christians from non-Christians. True believers are said to be those who fed the Hungry, clothed the naked and visited those that were sick and in prison. The believers are said to exclaim "When did we do this unto You (the King)?" The Lord Jesus explained, "When you did it to the least of these my brethren, ye have done unto Me."

Conclusion: All that we give and do for God -- we we will have eternally as a reward. That which we selfishly spend on ourselves is gone forever.

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