

A Great Privilege - To Offer A Sacrifice to God (1)

Introduction

- A. What would you give -- if you could give something to God? Only a few of us would feel that we would have something we could give our president. What could we ever give to God?
- B. The Bible surprisingly states that God is pleased with our offerings. In fact, we are told what to offer. Have you ever offered a sacrifice to God?

I. The Old Testament Pattern.

The Scripture

The Observation

If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer <u>a male without blemish</u> . He shall offer it <u>of his own voluntary will</u> at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation <u>before the Lord</u> .	An act of obedience
And he shall <u>put his hand upon the head</u> of the burnt offering and it shall be <u>accepted for him to make atonement for him</u> .	A voluntary act A spiritual act A personal act
And he shall <u>kill the bullock</u> before the Lord and the priests . . . shall <u>sprinkle the blood</u> . . . and the priests shall <u>burn all on the altar</u> , to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of <u>a sweet savour unto the Lord</u> . Leviticus 1:3-9	An act of transaction with God An act of complete surrender An act pleasing to God

II. The Biblical Explanation.

- A. The Old Testament sacrifices pointed to the coming of Jesus Christ.

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us. I Cor. 5:7.

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: Jesus Christ came to die in our place. He offered Himself to God as our Sacrifice and bore our guilt in His death on the Cross.

- B. The Old Testament sacrifices describe the offering a believer may make unto God.

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 is a priest and has the office and ability to offer sacrifices unto God.

III. The New Testament Instruction.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you 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:

A. The basis of our sacrifice: "the mercies of God."

There is no other basis for coming to God. As unrighteous and sinful people there is no hope of acceptance with God except for His mercy which has been provided in Jesus Christ. We must receive the provision of God and then come to God in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

B. The content of our sacrifice: "present your bodies a living sacrifice."

The reference to our bodies would indicate that we are to surrender ourselves totally to God. As the Old Testament sacrifice was all given and all burned on the altar -- God expects us to give ourselves and all we have -- totally to Him. We are then to live as a "living sacrifice". Here is where many believers fail. We surrender with reservation or we are doing that which we cannot surrender to God.

C. The character of our sacrifice: "holy, acceptable, reasonable service."

When we obey God in this surrender the result is that a new dimension of holiness is added to our lives -- God looks upon us and we must look upon ourselves as though we belonged to Him simply -- because we do. Our sacrifice has been accepted before God and that act and our daily lives become a "reasonable" or "spiritual service."

D. The spiritual advantage related to this sacrificial act.

1. The believer now has power to be free from the world system of sin.

"And be not conformed to this world."

To attempt to live a consistent Christian life when one is not surrendered to God is very frustrating.

2. The believer now has power to be transformed in daily life.

"but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

The word "transformed" comes from the Greek "metamorphosis". The reference is to change of form, structure or substance. When we surrender ourselves to God -- then His grace can flow into our lives.

3. The believer now has power to know and do the will of God.

"that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Before surrender we usually do not want to do the will of God. After this spiritual act -- we not only want to do His will -- we can.

Conclusion: Review the "Pattern".

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