



The Good News

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Giving God Our Best

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Under the Mosaic Law God commanded certain sacrifices be offered to be approved in His sight. Among these sacrifices were various offerings which included bulls, sheep, goats, turtledoves, and grain, and these were to be offered in specific ways depending on the purpose. This changes in the Law of Christ as Christians were not commanded to perform animal sacrifices. The Hebrew writer mentions that the different items and commands in the Old Testament were shadows or forms of that which was to come under Christ. So what are Christians to offer as sacrifices if we do not offer animal or grain offerings on an altar? Let us consider one category of sacrifices that Christians are to offer to God on a regular basis:

Sacrifices of our daily lives – As we go about our lives from day to day there are several items that qualify as sacrifices that a Christian is to humbly offer to God:

1) **Daily glorification of God – I Cor. 6:19-20.** Paul reminds us that our bodies are the temple of God, and we belong to God. The parallel is to understand that sacrifices were made on the altar in the temple, and Paul brings out that glorifying God is a sacrifice we are to offer on the altar of our heart on a regular basis.

2) **Sacrifices of faith, conduct, and teaching – Rom. 12:1.** Paul reminds us that we are to offer our bodies as an acceptable sacrifice by performing our service to Him. This combines several elements including growing in our faith, conducting ourselves in a way that is befitting a Christian, and making sure we are teaching others in word and example. To do so

demonstrates a priority to be a holy sacrifice to God in the way that we live. This is our reasonable service.

3) **Offering the proper place within the mind and heart – I Pet. 3:15.** Peter encourages the saints to “*sanctify the Lord God in your hearts*”. This requires effort daily to make sure we truly set God apart in our mind. Being pleasing to Him should be the most important goal every minute of the day.

4) **Helping others – Phil. 4:18.** Paul makes mention of a gift that the Philippians had sent via one of Paul’s associates and how that gift meant much to him. Perhaps the most encouraging point that Paul makes, however, is that their gift of love arose as a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God and was well pleasing to Him. We find that in helping others, particularly those of the household of faith, we offer sacrifices to God.

It is our goal to please God in everything and in every way, and these are just four ways that we can offer acceptable sacrifices to God in our daily lives. However, Israel was commanded to offer the best they had to the Lord. In these sacrifices, and all others that we offer, are we giving our best to the Lord?