



The Good News

February 18th, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 7

Christian Sacrifices

By Michael McCleary

We know that under the Mosaic Law certain sacrifices were commanded by God for the people to offer so that they could be approved in His sight. Among these sacrifices were various offerings which included bulls, sheep, goats, turtledoves, and grain, and were to be offered in specific ways depending on the sacrifice being offered. It is also obvious that New Testament Christians did not perform animal sacrifices, nor are Christians today to perform them. However, the Hebrew writer mentions that the different items and commands in the Old Testament were shadows or forms of that which was to come in the New Law 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.** In this text, Paul reminds us that our bodies are the temple of God and that we are no longer our own as 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 in itself qualifies as a sacrifice as much effort is needed on a daily basis 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. We should make sure that we are regularly offering our sacrifices to the Lord.