

## SACRIFICES UPON THE ALTAR

(Ex. 29:38-46)

### Introduction:

1. The word “sacrifice” appears some 60 times in various forms, and the related word “offering” some 77 times. The concept of sacrifices offered to God runs from the Garden of Eden through the last words of Revelation.
2. Are “sacrifices” and “offerings” only things of the Old Testament? Since Jesus is our sacrifice under the New Testament does that mean we have no sacrifices to offer our Lord?
3. Let us this morning consider sacrifices before Christ and after Christ.

### Discussion:

#### I. Pre-Christian Sacrifices.

- A. Concerning Covenants.
  1. Covenants are agreements between a superior and an inferior. The superior determines the terms of the covenant, and the inferior decides whether to abide by the terms or not.
  2. Covenants are two-way streets: both parties have obligations to fulfill.
- B. In the Garden of Eden.
  1. God gave existence, provision, and continued access to Himself and the Tree of Life.
  2. Man was to recognize and submit to God’s supremacy, tend the garden, and refrain from eating the forbidden fruit.
- C. After the Fall.
  1. God extended mercy, grace, forgiveness, and eternal life via His Christ to come.
  2. Man was to recognize and submit to God’s supremacy and offer sacrifices.
    - a. Sacrifice = “an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy”.
    - b. Sacrifices were to remind man of price of sin (Gen. 3:21; 4:4; Lev. 17:11; Rom. 6:23; Heb. 9:22).
    - c. Sacrifices were to remind man of the substitutionary sacrifice that God was going to provide (Gen. 3:15; 22:12-14; Heb. 10:4-14).
    - d. Sacrifices were to serve as object lessons on man’s relationship with God (the covenant).
      - i. Firstfruits required = God’s pre-eminence.
      - ii. Costly (hurt) = the sacrificial aspect of sacrifice (2 Sam. 24:24).

#### II. Christian Sacrifices.

- A. Ultimately Christ is our sacrifice (actually God’s sacrifice on our behalf; 1 Cor. 5:7; Titus 2:11; Rom. 6:23).
- B. How we access the grace of God.
  1. By our faith, that is, by what we know and how we respond (Rom. 5:1, 2; Jas. 2:22).
  2. Our continuing in the grace of God (Acts 14:22; 1 John 1:5-10).
- C. The Christian’s sacrifices (Rom. 12:1, 2; 2 Cor. 5:14ff; Col. 3:17).
- D. As our Lord summed up perfectly in Mark 1:30, 31.
  1. Our hearts = our desire is for God and His will.
  2. Our souls = the depth of our desire, it is our whole being.
  3. Our minds = focusing our mind on God and His will.
  4. Our strength = pursuing God and His will.
  5. Our love for our neighbor = how we pursue God and His will = Rom. 15:2; Phil. 2:4; Luke 10:25-37 + Matt. 25:31-46.

### **Conclusion:**

1. Are sacrifices just an Old Testament thing? Certainly not. If anything the sacrifices have become ever more significant and costly to God's people.
2. So, are we Christians today sacrificing? We need to follow Paul's advice in 2 Cor. 13:5 and give ourselves a check-up from the neck up.
3. Invitation.

### **OUR SACRIFICES ON THE ALTAR**

(Rom. 11:33-36)

1. Our Position/Devotion (Col. 1:9-18).
2. Our Time/Works (1 Pet. 4:1-11).
3. Our Money/Possessions.
  - A. 1 Tim. 6:17-19; note v19 contains a good definition of "sacrifice".
  - B. Acts 2:44-47 = not buying salvation/status in church (Acts 5), but rather exercising good stewardship of the blessings of God for His glory.
4. Sacrifice = "an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy".

## **PRAYER LIST FOR WEEK STARTING JAN. 21ST**

### ***Those with long term issues***

Louise Williams, Cliff and Rachel Greenawalt and their family, Ruth Vaughn as she lives with diabetes and MS, and Harrison Waldron.

### ***Those with short term issues***

- ▶ Darrell McKee and Jeff Hofgren as they continue to recovery from cancer treatments.
- ▶ Frances Davis as she struggles with some health issues.
- ▶ John Pellin as he continues to recover from cracked ribs.
- ▶ Kyle Lingenfelter as he seeks to find the cause and a treatment for his right wrist/hand.
- ▶ Phil and Owen Hastings as they recover from injuries.
- ▶ Our members who are traveling.
- ▶ Our college students who are away from us in body, but not in spirit.
- ▶ Our leadership in the church; that they might be faithful, strong, and bold.
- ▶ Our community; that they may seek the Lord and we might be able to guide them into the truth.