

Title: The ~~Sacrifice~~ Sacrifice that Pleases God

Text: Hebrews 13:15-17

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In chapter 13 we are looking at the specific responsibilities we have as believers. Responsibilities that flow out-off the great doctrines of this book.

In Vs 1-6 we studied the responsibilities we have towards one another, *relating to our ministrs, our marriage, our money*
 Then in Vs 7-14, the responsibilities that we have toward the Lord.

This is in several areas. In Vs 7-8 we were looking at the remembering of our leaders in the Lord.

- 2 In Vs 9, refusing wrong doctrine.
- 3 In Vs 10-14 relating to Jesus and His reproach.

4 And now Vs 15-16 and realizing the kind of sacrifices that God really desires in our lives.

Let's read it ~~again~~ -----(read Vs 15-16) *

I don't know about you, but I want to praise God, in my life. I want to please God. If you are a believer and you love him, *same* you will want to do the same.

So often it seems that we don't please him. We don't follow through with ~~what~~ we know the Bible teaches. I want to give my life to him. All that I am, I want to give to Him.

But, I find in reading ~~the~~ the O.T. that many times all of those sacrifices that the Jews were bring^M to God, he doesn't want. *Because* They didn't come with a heart that was int^{time} with Him. And responding to Him.

God said, through you give me a thousand sacrifices, yet within your heart you haven't determined to love me, I want nothing to do with it.

And I think many times we do the same thing. We can bring all sorts of service to God, we can be busy and involved and try to do all that we think he wants us to do. And yet miss, what he really wants from us.

The Westminster Confession ^{of Faith} puts it correctly when it says that the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

To glorify God is the sumptrem end of life. It is the highest good of every believer. To prasio him, to love him, to honor him, for he alone is worthy. It is the purpose ~~for~~ for which he designed us. All creation, everything that has breath let it praise the Lord, says the Psalmist. Revelation 4 says he is worthy to receive glory and honor and ^{praise} ~~honor~~ for he has created all things for his pleasure.

out I want my life to please Him. And I am sure that if you love Christ, you do to. And as I look at this matter it is the heart and manner of what is being said throughout this book. That our lives should please God. That we should praise him, continually, for all that he has done for us.

Let me ask you a question. Since you got up this morning, have you thank and praised the Lord? Have you praised Him.

It is kind of hard to praise God, especially when things don't go like you figure. A few days ago, I was having one of those days when everything when wrong,. You know, I am sure you have had those days. The kids were up late the night before and thus they weren't there normal sweet self at breakfast. It was the day I received ^{love} ~~the~~ Bills- and that wasn't so exciting. And nothing seemed to go right all day long. All these things are happening and then I meet ^{a dear Saint} ~~an old man~~ .. He says, "its a great day, Praise the Lord..."

Thanks, But I maintained composure. That is my usually style. And it was hard to thank God for all things...You Know....

But all things...and it is amazing to me, how all things in life are to bring praise, honor, and glory to God. No matter what it is.. Everything is to praise him.

Now, in realizing the kind of sacrifice that God wants. There are two things that I want you to see from Vs 15-16 *as we prepare for Communion*
One is praise and the other is our practice.

(1) In terms of praise, it says "let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God."

That is an O.T. idea. It comes out of Lev 7:12. When you brought a Peace Offering, it says offer it with thanksgiving and praise to God. Now, a peace offering was not a sin offering. You weren't bringing any thing for your sins. It was an offering of gratitude and praise to the Lord. And God, here, says "let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God."

And in that offering you often brought an animal. But in this one it says, "the fruit of lips....."

I got to thinking about that and relating it back to the O.T. And the Greek word here translated "lips" as used in the O.T. passages is translated "calves." The animals themselves that were offered in praise to God. And what a beautiful thought.

You know what God is saying here? He is saying that the animal we offer in praise and graduated to him ---LIPS ---that is the animal. Lips that continually are thanking HIM. Giving praise to His name.

That really hit a note in my mind because so often we are critical, discouraged, depressed, and we fail to give praise and thanks to God. Continually, everything. And that is what He wants. Everthing that has breath let it praise the Lord. Our lips constantly thanking him.

I remained you that according to Ephesians 5:18 it says, "be filled with the spirit." Then *it gives the answer* ~~it describes~~ what being filled with the spirit means. It means speaking ~~to yourselves~~ in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord." And giving thanks for all things." That is being filled with the spirit. That is what God wants...He wants us to praise him constantly.

(28) But, also, practice. Vs 16 says "and do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

This means that not only do I praise him with my lips, but I praise him, also, with what I actually do in my life. In terms of responding with my deeds, I am to do good.

Galatians 6:10 says "let us do good unto all men, especially those who are of the household of faith."

Constantly doing good. Not because I am trying to make others think well of me. Not out-of-the motivation of self or to get my way. But as the product of a life that praises God and thanks God and gives glory to God. The most natural thing is to do good towards other people.

The word "share" is our word "fellowship." Meaning "that which we share in common. There is a great idea here. Because it is a fellowship of sharing what we have in common.

What is the one thing all believe share in common?..... ETERNAL LIFE.

Turn over to I John 1:1-3 (read)

We often forget this. One of the ways we praise God is sharing what we have with someone else. Every time you witness and you share the Gospel you are praising God. This is very important.

~~Galatians 6:10~~
The last phrase of Vs 16 says, "for with such sacrifices," what sacrifices?....Words of praise, doing good, witnessing..."Such sacrifices God is pleased." And all of this is a product of a life that is praising God; and offering continually your thanks unto the Lord.

(50) Vs 17, not only are we to be responsible in the area of realizing the kind of sacrifices God wants, but also in the area of responding to our leaders Vs 17 says, "obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."

out
This is a very interesting verse. I am sure that you have read, as I have, on many occasions, articles dealing with the complete break down within our country of authority. Where is authority? There seems to be very little authority anymore. No body recognizes anybody's position. If you do have a position, it is questioned by everyone.

God says, that the reason we should submit to leadership is for two reasons.

(1) One, because ~~of~~ their authority comes from God, himself.

(2) And two, because their accountability is to God.

Let's look at their authority. It is expressed in two words: OBEY THEM...AND SUBMIT TO THEM.

The word "obey" means "fully persuaded, ^{about} their leadership." And the word "submit" means to "hear under." Meaning under authority.

The same word is used of children to parents. "Children obey your parents." Listen to them. Their authority. Their position of authority.

God has set a ~~change~~ of command in the family - marriage and the home. He has set a chain of command in the church. He has set a chain of command in business, government, and every area of life. And the Bible teaches that authority comes from God. And we are to respond *to our Pastors*

Such a break down in authority today ^{in churches} And you know what the result is? A loss of Joy and a loss of happiness.... *A Loss of Respect*

According to this passage ~~they~~ want to do it with joy, ~~not~~ with grief. And fundamental to our joy is leadership.

(29) But also notice that the leaders are accountable to God. Vs 17 says, "they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account."

They must give a word to God for what they do... ~~and~~

And there is a purpose behind all of this.. According to Vs 17 that they may do it with joy and not with ~~grief~~. Or not with groning inside.

I think if you are a parent you can identify with this. Let me illustrate..... You tell your child to do something and they don't do it. I mean they resist you and they rebel against you and fail to do it. And inside of you there is this growing going on. This ache. They are not responding to my authority. And there is an ache inside.

But, what a difference when you tell a child...Johnny, will you take out the garbage?...And, sap..he runs and gets the trash and takes it outside.....I know this is a miracle ...But it does happen...

He dumps the trash and he comes back and you can't believe it... The joy that comes to your heart...I think I will try it again... What a difference...JOY...

And did you know that the child benefits ^{from} that JOY is in the heart of his parents?....According to this vs the result in our life when we don't respond to leadership is that it is unprofitable for us.

Literally that means "no advantage." "No usefulness."

It will never be any advantage to any of us if we do not respond to leadership. If children respond to their parents, immediately, there will be joy in the heart of their parents..and...they will receive the benefits. God promises this/ It is part of his chain of command. We are to respond to leadership.

(over)

Now, Vs 18, **OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE WRITER AND HIS MESSAGE.**

First of all, in terms of praying for him. By the way I believe that the Apostle Paul is the writer of the book of Hebrews; and most of the reasons for this is found here in these last few verses..

In terms of praying, Vs 18 says, **"Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorable in all things, and I urge you all the more to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner."**

What is the sacrifice God wants in your life?

1. your Praise (2) your practice
- 3 your response to His authority

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO OUR LEADERS
Our Responsibilities to The Lord

1. To Remember your Leaders in The Lord vs 7
2. To Refuse wrong Doctrine vs 9
3. To Jesus and His reproach - vs 10-14
(World hates Jesus it will hate you)
4. Bring The right sacrifice to Lord vs 15-16
which is your promised reaction
5. Responding to our leaders because their
authority comes from God and they are
accountable to God

That is your responsibility as Christians. See to it
that we may

FBC / TART / Sept 5, 1983