

A Suitable Sacrifice

1st - 3rd Grade
Lesson 7

Our Reasonable Service

In our last lesson, we learned that God gave His people laws. He told His people to bring sacrifices to pay for their sins.

For 400 years, the Jews brought sacrifices to the Tabernacle that Moses built. After that, for 400 years they brought their offerings to Solomon's beautiful Temple. Then God's people were taken away to Babylon and could not offer their sacrifices. After 70 years, God let them return to their own land. They rebuilt the Temple, and for another 400 years, they offered their sacrifices there. Then King Herod built another beautiful Temple. This is the temple where the Jews worshipped when Jesus was on earth.

God told His people what kind of animals they could use for their sacrifices. The animals had to be one year old. They could not be blind or lame or sick. The animals had to be a perfect (Leviticus 22:20). Do you know why the sacrifices had to be perfect? It is because the sacrifices were a picture of Jesus. One day, He would come to earth to die for the sins of the whole world. He is the perfect Lamb of God.

At the time Paul wrote the book of Romans, the Temple had been completely destroyed. There was no place for the people to offer their sacrifices. But Jesus had already died for our sins. There was no need for the people to offer sacrifices any more.

So now, Paul begs the people to be a living sacrifice.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

—Romans 12:1

In this lesson, we will learn how to be a living sacrifice for God. We will also learn how to use a gift that keeps on giving.

A Sacrifice That Keeps on Living

A living sacrifice is a person that lives to do only what God wants him or her to do. It means saying as Jesus said to His Father, "Not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). It means that every part of you belongs to God. It means doing whatever He asks you to do. It means not doing things that do what does not please God.

Romans 6:11 says that we should think of ourselves being dead so that God can use our lives like He wants to.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Gift That Keeps on Giving

At the moment a person is saved, God gives every one of us special gifts to be used for His glory. To some people, He gives the gift of being a pastor. To some He gives the gift of being a teacher. To some He gives the gift of giving. To some He gives the gift of showing mercy, or kindness, to others. He lists these gifts in I Corinthians, chapter 12.

God does not give us these gifts so we can be proud or boastful. He does not give them so we can look important. The reason He gives us these gifts is so we can honor Him. He gives them to us so we can help others.

Conclusion

In Romans 12:1, Paul begs us to give ourselves to God. He says it is the only reasonable thing to do. After all, Jesus died for you. God is building a home for you in heaven. What else could you do but live for Him?

Paul gave his life as a living sacrifice to God. He told everyone he met about Jesus. He had a hard life. He was beaten many times. He was in three shipwrecks. He was stoned and left for dead. But Paul says in Romans 8:18 that it was worth it. Living for Jesus was far better than living for himself.

How about you? Will you be a living sacrifice for God? If you will, bow your head right now and tell Him. Then every day remind the Lord that He can do what He wants with your life.

Teacher's Notes



Horizontal lines for writing notes.