

## **The Sacrifices of Christianity**

### **12-30-18**

Many mistakenly believe that the Way of Christ has no sacrifices, as compared to the way of Moses or the patriarchs. Yet this is not the case. In fact, the sacrifices of the Old Covenants existed to teach us about the true sacrifices called for in Christ.

The Story of Sacrifices began in the Garden with Adam and Eve. There the first sacrifice was made when God took the life of an animal to fashion skin coverings for the nakedness of Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21). In that act it was established that an innocent beast might die to cover up the sins of another. Soon after we see the sacrifices of Cain and Abel, and then of Noah. We see how important sacrifices are with the story of Abraham and Isaac. Finally, there is a great deal of attention given to the system of sacrifices in Israel.

The purpose of Sacrifices were twofold. First, they were to appease the anger of God. We can see this in the sacrifice of Noah in Genesis 8:21. When he sacrificed, the aroma soothed the anger of God. The word the Bible uses to describe this is "propitiation". Secondly, sacrifices are meant to honor and praise God. We can see this in the words of David in Psalm 50:23.

The nature of Sacrifices are also revealed in the Old Testament. First, they had to be determined by God. In other words, men could not simply choose what they wanted to give God; God needed to reveal it to them. We see this in the first sacrifice of men, that of Cain and Abel (Hebrews 11:4). A sacrifice that was not acceptable to God by His words is worthless. Secondly, we see that sacrifices cannot cost nothing; they need to be a sacrifice. David made this clear in 1 Chronicles 21:24.

In Christ, there is still a Sacrificial System. In this Way, Jesus is Himself the ultimate sacrifice (Ephesians 5:2). We are told repeatedly that Christians must offer acceptable sacrifices before God (1 Peter 2:5-9). Here are four types of sacrifices offered in the Way of Christ:

#### **1. The Living Sacrifice**

Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

#### **2. The Sacrifice Praise to God**

Hebrews 13:15 *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.*

#### **3. The Sacrifice of Serving Others**

Philippians 4:18 *But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.*

#### **4. The Sacrifice of Doing Good to All**

Hebrews 13:16 *And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*