

**LESSON 7: THE PHYSICAL SACRIFICES, WHICH THE PRIESTS OFFERED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT  
SCRIPTURES, FORESHADOWED THE SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES WHICH CHRISTIANS OFFER IN THE NEW  
TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES**

**TEXT: 1<sup>st</sup> Pet.2:5 reads, “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”**

A. The sacrifices, which the priests offered in the Old Testament Scriptures, not only foreshadowed the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross to bring the forgiveness of sins; but they also foreshadowed the spiritual sacrifices, which all Christians are required to offer in the New Testament Scriptures.

B. All Christians are “an holy priesthood”, and just as the priests, who were consecrated to their position as servants of God to offer up physical sacrifices for themselves and their families, and for the people of Israel, even so all Christians are required to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God.

C. The purpose of this Lesson is to explore four spiritual sacrifices that all Christians are required to offer up to God in the New Testament Scriptures.

Transitional Sentence: The first spiritual sacrifice that all Christians are required to offer up to God in the New Testament Scriptures, is:

I. To Live A Holy Life. (Rom.12:2)

A. The body of every Christian is to be offered up to God as a “living sacrifice”.

i. The animal sacrifices were offered to God in a “dead” state; but every Christian is to offer their body to God in a living state. (Lev.1:5; 3:2; 4:4; 6:6-7; 8:22-24; compare 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor.5:15; Tit.2:11-12)

B. Just as the animal sacrifices had to be “without blemish”, that is, without any physical defect, even so the body of every Christian is to be without any spiritual defect. (Lev.22:20; 1<sup>st</sup> Jn.3:9)

i. Not only is the guilt of sin to be forgiven through the blood of Christ, but the power of sin, which tries to control our thoughts, imaginations, desires, words and actions, is to be “condemned in the flesh”, through our union with Christ in the likeness of His death on the cross, His burial and His resurrection, so that we may be made free from the power of sin and be empowered through the Spirit of God to resist temptations to sin and to be obedient to what God has commanded us to do in the New Testament. (Rom.8:3-4,12-13)

ii. Sin is therefore not to reign in the Christian’s mortal body. (Rom.6:12)

iii. The Christian is not to “yield...members (of their body) “as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin”; “but yield (themselves) unto God...and (their) members as instruments of righteousness unto God”. (Rom.6:13)

- a. The “members” of the human body refer to the organs, such as the eyes, the ears, the tongue, the hands, the feet, and the sexual organs.
  - b. None of these body parts are to be used as “instruments” or “tools” to do what is unrighteous; but the whole body should be offered to God to do what is righteous.
- iv. “Sin shall not have dominion over” the Christian’s body. (Rom.6:14)
  - a. This is true because Jesus Christ’s death on the cross not only brings God’s forgiveness, but it “condemns sin in the flesh”, that is, it crucifies the power of sin in our human nature, so that we may be obedient to God. (Rom.8:3-4)
  - b. This is also true because the Spirit of God dwells within the body and by His power we may keep on putting to death the sinful actions of the body. (Rom.8:12-13)
- C. Certain previous ways of thinking, feeling, speaking and behaving, before one became a Christian, must be “put off”, and other ways of thinking, feeling, speaking and behaving, patterned after God, must be “put on” (Eph.4:22-24)
  - i. Put away lying, and speak the truth. (Eph.4:25)
  - ii. Be angry and sin not: let not the sun go down and you are still angry. (Eph.4:26)
  - iii. Do not give the devil any opportunity to control your life. (Eph.4:27)
  - iv. Do not steal anymore; but labour honestly for one’s living and to give to the person that is in need. (Eph.4:28)
  - v. Do not use indecent, abusive, unclean language, but speak words that build up one another. (Eph.4:29)
  - vi. Do not grieve or sadden the Holy Spirit, who dwells in your body, by living as you used to do before becoming a Christian. (Eph.4:30)
  - vii. Get rid of all bitterness, wrath, anger, shouting in anger, false accusations and ill-will, and be kind, soft-hearted, and forgiving. (Eph.4:31-32)
  - viii. Follow or imitate God’s example of thinking, feeling, speaking and behaving, as God’s dear children. (Eph.5:1)
  - ix. Live a life of love, as Christ also has loved us, and has sacrificed Himself for us to God. (Eph.5:2)
  - x. Do not let any of these practices be mentioned even once that any Christian is practising these sinful things: fornication, all uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking, jesting, but rather giving of thanks. (Eph.5:3-5)

Transitional Sentence: The second spiritual sacrifice that all Christians are required to offer up to God in the New Testament Scriptures, is:

## II. The Sacrifice of Praise. (Heb.13:15)

### A. Praise to God and to the Lamb of God is a natural expression of gratitude for Salvation.

- i. The Jews, who were converted on the day of Pentecost, praised God for their salvation. (Acts 2:47)
- ii. The Ethiopian Eunuch rejoiced when he had obeyed the gospel of Christ. (Acts 8:39)
- iii. The converts at Antioch of Pisidia were filled with joy. (Acts 13:52)
- iv. The Philippian Jailor rejoiced when he was saved. (Acts 16:34)

### B. Give God your best sacrifice of praise. (Mal.1:8)

- i. The praise should reflect how great God is. (Ps.95:1-5; 96:1-8; 97:1,8-9; 98:1-4; 100:1-5)
- ii. Our hearts should be in our singing. (Eph.5:19; Col.3:16)

Transitional Sentence: The third spiritual sacrifice that all Christians are required to offer up to God in the New Testament Scriptures, is:

## III. Sharing With Those Who Are In Need. (Heb.13:16)

### A. Jesus teaches that we lay up treasures in heaven when we help those who are in need.

(Matt.6:19-21; compare Matt.19:21; Lk.12:33)

### B. Early Christians were generous to those who were in need. (Acts 4:34-35; 11:29; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor.16:1-2; Rom.15:25-26)

Transitional Sentence: The fourth spiritual sacrifice that all Christians are required to offer up to God in the New Testament Scriptures, is:

## IV. Spreading The Gospel Of God And Saving Some People. (Rom.15:16)

### A. Paul compared himself to an Old Testament priest offering a sacrifice to God. (Greek: "hierourgeo" means "to perform holy service, act as a priest" (Gingrich, Shorter Lexicon Of The Greek New Testament, page 99)

- i. This sacrifice consisted of his conversion of the Gentiles to Christ.
- ii. The Gentiles were described as "the offering up", which is the language of sacrifice.

### B. We are to make the sacrifice to prepare ourselves to convert as many people to Christ as possible.

- i. We are to know the Holy Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim.3:15)
- ii. We are to apply its Teachings in our lives on a daily basis. (James 1:22-25)
- iii. We are to find the answers to people's questions ahead of time, that we may be able to remove their doubts. (1<sup>st</sup> Pet.3:15)

iv. We are to be bold or confident in debating those who disagree with the Bible's Teachings.

(Acts 6:9-10; 17:2-3; 19:26; 28:22-23)

Conclusion:

A. The physical sacrifices of the Old Testament pointed forward to the spiritual sacrifices of the New Testament.

B. There are four Spiritual sacrifices that every Christian should offer to God:

i. The sacrifice of a holy life. (Rom.12:1-2)

ii. The sacrifice of praise to God. (Heb.13:15)

iii. Sharing with those who are in need. (Heb.13:16)

iv. Spreading the gospel of God and saving some people. (Rom.15:16)

C. Invite people to obey the gospel of Christ. (Jn.3:16; Acts 3:19; Rom.10:9-10; Acts 22:16)

D. Invite backsliders to return to Christ. (Acts 8:22; 1<sup>st</sup> Jn.1:9)