

Acceptable Sacrifice - Part 2

by Hoseah Wu

The key to being acceptable to God is to live a life of total surrender to His will and to be a living sacrifice.

Duration: 1:30:50

Scripture: Ephesians 1:4-6, Ephesians 5:8, Ephesians 5:10, 1 Peter 2:5

Topics: "Sacrifice"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker shares a vivid dream that a brother had about believers standing before the judgment seat of Christ. The brother noticed that some believers carried heavy burdens of achievements, while others carried smaller packages, and some seemed to carry nothing at all. The speaker emphasizes that what was once acceptable in ministry may not be acceptable now, and that God is always looking for Christ's increase in us. The sermon encourages believers to live a life that is acceptable to God by offering up spiritual sacrifices through Jesus Christ and walking as children of light.

Transcript

Shall we turn our hearts to the Lord once again? Lord, we thank you for your very presence with us this morning. We are very much aware that your life is worthy to live. Only your life is real to us.

It is only your life in us that can be a pleasure, a delight to the Father. Lord, give us desire to be found acceptable in your sight. And we may not miss the glorious calling by which you call us unto.

Have mercy on us. Meet us this morning with thyself. We give you all the praise and all the glory to you.

Because you are with us. And you are in us. We give you all the praise and all the glory.

In Christ's precious name we pray. Shall we turn to 1 Peter chapter 2? We'll read verse 5. You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. And let's turn to Ephesians chapter 1. And we'll read 4, 5, 6. We'll read 4, 5, 6. And we'll read 4, 5, 6. And let's turn to the same book, Ephesians chapter 5. Ephesians 5. And we'll pick the very last sentence of verse 8. Walk as children of light.

Do you find that there? The very last part of verse 8. Walk as children of light. And then we'll go to verse 10. Finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

So I pose a question, is there anything in us, no matter how we try, do you think God will find us acceptable to Him? So my question is, in us, no matter how hard we try, can God see us and accept us? So before I share that, let me share about the vocologies on the cross. The significance of His death and resurrection. Of course He died for our sins individually.

But take note, brothers and sisters. Because in His death, He concluded a race that is impossible to be acceptable to Him. He concluded and He finished that.

Because in His death, He concluded a race that is impossible to be acceptable to Him. Because in us, there is no possibility that we can be accepted by God. He put it out of sight.

But on the other side of resurrection, He is the head of a new race. That is totally acceptable to Him because of who He is. So brothers and sisters, the old race that can never satisfy Him or be acceptable to Him, that race is finished.

On resurrection, He started something new altogether. In Christ, there is a new race that is totally acceptable to God. Now, those two short choruses we sang this morning.

For me to live is Christ. To live is Christ. Because only Christ is acceptable to God.

Because only Christ is acceptable to God. Except Him, there is no one else. Brothers and sisters, that kind of life is worth living.

And Apostle Paul found the secret of that life that can be acceptable, pleasing to God. That is Christ. Not I, but Christ.

So I am quickly referring to three of the offerings we find in the book of Leviticus. The first is the whole bone offering. And the second is the meal offering.

And the third is the peace of friendship or fellowship offering. This is turned to Leviticus 1. We'll read verse 5 to 8. Leviticus 1 verse 5. 5 to 8. 5 to 9. 5 to 9. 5 to 10. 5 to 10.

Now in this offering, every part of the animal was offered up. Everything was consumed. Now the bone offering has the thought of that which is ascending to God.

And that's why it says it's an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord. Now brothers and sisters, all the sacrifices in the Old Testament they are types of Christ. And this particular offering, it speaks of Christ as totally surrendering Himself to God.

Not withholding anything back. A total surrender of Himself. Now if we go to the New Testament, particularly in the Gospel of John.

The Lord Jesus declared many times. He said, I came not to do my own will, but to do the will of Him who sent me. He wasn't thinking of doing things.

All He thinks is that I need to give myself wholly to God, my Father. Totally, totally giving over. Brothers and sisters, that is the secret of His life.

That is the power of His ministry. Because He totally has given Himself totally to God, His Father. Because He was afraid to act out of Himself.

Because He was afraid to act out of Himself. He wants to please His Father 100%. If the Father says something, then He says something.

If He sees His Father doing something, then He will do the same thing. He will not do anything out of Himself. Totally giving over to His Father.

At His Father's disposal. Brothers and sisters, that is the secret of our ministry. That is the secret of a life that is acceptable in His sight.

Because God is not after so much after what you can do for Him. He is after you. He wants you to enjoy, He wants you to enjoy Him, and He wants to enjoy you.

Because you were created for fellowship. You were created to satisfy Him. And there is no way we can be satisfied, be a pleasure to Him, acceptable to Him, than by drawing near to Himself.

Because His heart is for you, and He wants your heart for Him. Because His heart is for you, and He wants your heart for Him. So Jesus said, I came not according to my own will, but according to the will of Him who sent me.

We know that when Jesus was 12 years old, He went to Jerusalem. He entered into the temple. Now that was God's earthly house.

So what were those words that He uttered on that occasion? He said, I came for one thing, and one thing alone. I came to be occupied with my Father's business. In baptism, He declared, His will is my will.

His work is my work. His end is my end. I am totally committed to the Father's will.

And heaven just could not hold back. So there is a breakthrough from heaven. And God declared, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

And God is looking for that kind of people this day among His people. Now the second offering, we were not able to read through all this because of our time. It is the kneel offering.

Now it speaks of His perfect humanity. It's fine flour mingled with oil. It speaks of His perfect humanity.

And He was filled with the Holy Spirit. He was filled with the Spirit at His birth. And He was filled with the Holy Spirit before He launched out His public ministry.

And without yeast, without yeast. No leaven, because there is no sin in Him. And also it's very fine.

The flour is very, very fine. It speaks of His sensitivity to God the Father. He is always conscious of the presence of His Father.

He has the consciousness in His heart. He says, I want to do all things to please Him. And so He has such sensitivity to what the Father wants.

Because He is so even, so simple, so fine, so delicate. And that's what His character is. He has that sensitivity.

Now let me just give a couple of illustrations. For example, in chapter 4 of the Gospel of John. He went to Samaria.

Now we all know that for the Jew, the good Jew, if from the south they want to go to Galilee, they will go the other way to go up to Galilee. They will bypass Samaria. Because the Jews and the Samaritans, they had nothing to do with each other.

But on that occasion, the Father's will was for him to go through Samaria. Now that is against the tradition of the Jew. Because they have nothing to do with the Samaritans.

Because they are a race that is of mixed blood. The Jews believe in their absolute purity. So by just the law and listen to the guiding of the Father, He went that day to Samaria.

Now that is a practical way of living a consecrated life or a life that's acceptable to God. It's not my will, but His will. It's very practical.

And so he went to Samaria. And you know the story. On that day he met that Samaritan woman.

And if you read through the Gospel, it says that on that day, some of these not Jewish people, they received greater light and greater revelation than God's chosen Jewish people. Because the Lord Jesus told the Samaritan woman, He said, if you know the grief of God and who is talking to you, if you ask Him and He will give you that water to drink and you will never thirst. Now the interesting thing is that that day was very hot.

And apparently they didn't bring any food with them. And so they went to the village to buy food. And when they came back, they saw the Lord Jesus.

He was not hungry. He seemed to already satisfied. And they wondered who brought Him food.

They thought someone brought them food. Yeah, because He refused to eat. So they said, who brought Him food? And what was the Lord's answer? He said, I have food to eat that you do not know.

Because my food is to do the will of Him who sent me. That is a life. The Lord's life is a life of a living sacrifice.

He is a life that is always acceptable in the Father's sight. He is doing all those things that are pleasing to Him. May not pleasing to man.

May seem to do something against the tradition of the day. Now that's what we find in that chapter 4 of John. We find the principle of meal offering.

Because when you give yourself to do His will, when you want to do that which is pleasing to Him, you want to minister to Him first. And He ministers back to you. When God is satisfied, we are also satisfied.

So the Lord said, I have food to eat you do not know. My food is to do the will of Him who sent me. Now brothers and sisters, that is the Lord's life.

Now I'll quickly just share a few thoughts. Because John in John he said, because I live, you shall live. Now in the gospel he said, as I walk, you shall walk.

As he is in the world, so are we in the world. So how did he live his life in this world? He lived his life always as a bone offering. A continuous bone offering.

Because his life is to please Him. His life, the way he lived his life, is like this meal offering. Always sensitive to the leading of the Father.

He wants everything to be acceptable to Him. He was not afraid of man's criticism. Man's opinion will not get in the way.

So he went to Samaria against the vision of the Jew. But that day there was fruit for the kingdom. Not only Samaritan was miraculously saved.

And the Lord remained there two extra days. And many, many came to know Him. Brothers and sisters, that is the secret of a life of sacrifice.

That is the life that is acceptable to Him. It is life of offering. Now brothers and sisters, in our thinking, we think about acceptable sacrifice we offer to Him, we do it occasionally.

So at the end of the year, the first day of the year, we try to rededicate ourselves. So we do it occasionally. So if you are more spiritual, you do it more often.

And if you can do it maybe once a year, that is pretty good. But Lord Jesus, His life, His life is an offering in itself. His life is a burnt offering.

His life is a cereal offering, meal offering. His life is a friendship, fellowship or peace offering. That's right.

And I appreciate the translation. I appreciate the translation of the word fellowship and also the other said peace offering. But it's both good.

Because in Ephesians 2, He is our peace. Without Him, there's no peace between God and us. Without peace, there's no way we can have peace with each other.

other. Now the Paul in 2nd chapter of Ephesians says he is our peace. Is that something he does for us? He is our peace.

Just how Albert Schreier, he's the ladder. That's right, he stretched that ladder from earth to heaven. He's the peacemaker.

That's right, he brings man to be at peace with God and he brings God to be at peace with man. And because we are at peace with God, therefore we can be at peace with each other. And we can also be at peace in ourselves.

So he is our peace offering. Now in this peace offering, there's three parties all share that sacrifice. First, there's that portion given to God.

And then second, there's that portion that's belong to the priest. And the third portion is belong to the offerer and his family. Now in the Old Testament, the offering and the offerer and the priest are two entities.

But in the New Testament, the offerer and his sacrifice are one. So in a sense, you don't offer things, you offer yourself. But if you offer yourself, all that belongs to you, go with it.

And so in this peace offering or fellowship offering, God has his part. We who serve him, we also have our share. And what we take from him, that share, we share with our family.

Our brothers and sisters, individually we are all a living sacrifice. Now why we call, why we call, when we give ourselves to him, why we call it a living sacrifice? Because as long as you are alive, as long as you are living, you are a sacrifice. As long as you are in Christ, as long as you are alive in Christ, whether you know it or not, you are a sacrifice.

Because that life in us, we are a life of sacrifice. And that life is always, that life can satisfy God's heart. It's always acceptable to him.

Now I want to just share a few thoughts that will help us in our local fellowship. Now I don't know about your fellowship. But I know something about our local fellowship.

And I also know a few fellowships that I have visited occasionally. But you can tell. Whether that local fellowship, the brothers and sisters are really blessed or not blessed, the key is to how they live before God.

How they live their life before God. If they live their own Christian life, blessing is very limited. But if they learn to live as Christ lived, as a whole born orphan, that fellowship is a blessed fellowship.

You can be sure, wherever there's a fellowship that's for life, there are those who are giving themselves totally to him. If you go to a fellowship, they seem to know the way of God for them. They find God has a way in them.

That's right. God has a way in them and through them. It's because they are those who are living a life that is acceptable, pleasing to him.

The secret is that when we give ourselves totally to him, then we discover the might of Christ. He will not come to you to share his mind. He wants you to go to him for him to share his mind with you.

And so the call is always come to me. So as we come to him, we learn of him and we learn from him. That is the secret of any local fellowship.

That is lively. That is indeed blessed by the Lord. And they are those who are willing to give themselves like a peace offering.

First, they want to satisfy God. But they discover as they please God, they themselves will also satisfy. But not only themselves satisfied, but the whole family is fed spiritually.

So if our heart is to satisfy him, if our heart is the status to bring spiritual supply nourishment to our brothers and sisters, we will find ourselves fed spiritually. Let me just share a couple of thoughts before we conclude our time. Let's turn to Hebrews 13.

That portion our brother used last evening. Hebrews 13. 15.

Hebrews 13, 15 and 16. Therefore by him, let us continually offer the sacrifices of praise to God. That is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name.

But do not forget to do good and to share. For with such sacrifices, God is well pleased or acceptable to him. Continuous praise.

As sacrifice of praise. It is out of life. It is continuously.

Is that something affected from the outside? It is the outflow of something inside. For instance, our praise often times are affected by the external things. So when it's good, I praise.

When it's not so good, no praise. So our praise is conditional by what's out there. So for us, no matter how the external condition may be, the inside condition will not change us.

He is always in us. The reality is inside, the reality is outside. The more you praise, the more you discover what's in here.

So for us, that is a secret of really rejoicing in the Lord. And we praise continuously. Now our brothers shared last evening, particularly when he came to the Lord's table.

Okay, now those are special occasions. Okay, if you look into the numbers 28, they are daily required offerings we have to do. Okay, there are many extras offerings that we need to offer.

Okay, there is the offering during the Sabbath. There is the offering we need to offer at the beginning of every month. There are also offerings on special occasions, the festivals.

And if you read that chapter, there are many mentions of these are besides the regular offering. You are to offer all these besides the regular offering. So through the week, we thank him, we praise him.

But when we come to the Lord's table, that's a special time. Because we want to have a fuller praise, a more satisfying praise offered to our Heavenly Father. Now in the scripture, worship and service are interchangeable.

Because true worship is true service. And true service is true worship. Because the object of your service and worship is God and God alone.

So that is, we have to take note of that. Now, I just want to share a couple of practical things I experienced in my life. I attended many conferences.

And I thank God for that. Okay, so one time a sister sort of asked me, he said, how do you know you should go to those conferences? He said, unless the Lord prevents me to go, I know I should go. So all this year, the Lord has not prevented me to attend some of these conferences.

But I have to tell you, I've been greatly helped by the brothers and sisters gathering in this way. Their spiritual help that you cannot get locally, you can only get when we gather in this way. Somehow, in this gathering, you touch a fuller measure of Christ.

Locally, you know He's great. But when we come this way, you say, wow, He's so great. Now, particularly the last meeting of the conference, when we break together, when I hear Cantonese, Amoy, Portuguese, Chinese, whatever language, wow, I say, this is something.

All these impossible people, the Lord make it possible for us to be one. Why? It's all because of that one sacrifice that was offered. Because of that sacrifice, we are one.

Oh, thank God. And when you listen to some of the prayers, they minister to me. Some of those prayers we heard at the breaking of bread, my wife and I, we talk about that prayer for a long time.

Because it brings you right close to God. Through that prayer, you touch heaven. Through that prayer, you touch living Christ.

Through that prayer, you touch the heaven. And thank God. And what your spiritual sacrifices can do to your brothers and sisters.

Those few words touch many hearts. And how we are blessed. Now, Friday, we will break bread together.

Let's look to the Lord. That we will have a touch of heaven on earth. That we offer all our love back to him.

And as you offer your part to him, you minister to your brothers and sisters. Then just another passage, Romans. Romans 15.

About the result of our ministry. Verse 16. Romans 15, 16.

As a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. The fruit of Paul's labor. He did not touch it with his own hand.

Because it's the Lord's. He gives it back to him. So brothers and sisters, in our service, don't keep anything for yourself.

If it's from him, we give it back to him. And particularly Christian workers. And especially nowadays in some circles.

You and the joy following around you. There's always a tendency to joy following. And Paul said, you follow me as I follow the Lord.

So I don't want to hear that word, my church. I still hear that on this conference. If the church is your church and it's not his.

If it's his, it's not yours. So don't say, my church. You are nobody.

So don't use that word. So all must offer back to him. So when we labor for the Lord, we all have a tendency.

So say, all the fruit from the Gentile Lord, I offer to you. And you keep them, you sanctify them. Brothers and sisters, we all should have that attitude.

I'm going to read this verse from the New Living Translation. Paul said, a special message. I'm a special messenger from Christ to you Gentiles.

Paul said, I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you. From Jesus Christ to you. He was God sent.

Not man sent. Okay. I bring you the good news and offer you up as a fragrant sacrifice to God.

I bring you. I bring you the good news and offer you up as a fragrant sacrifice to God. That you might be pure and pleasing to him by the Spirit.

Paul did not labor to get those Gentile converts for his own pleasure. He did not labor to get those Gentile converts for his own pleasure. He gave them as a sacrifice acceptable to God.

May the Lord help us. All that is from him. Through us.

But must all unto him. Let's pray. Father, we thank you for your presence with us.

We have to confess our human words are so inadequate. Do not allow us to limit you. Break through all obstacles.

And manifest your greatness among your people. Because you are great. And you do us wondrous things.

Help us. That our consecration to you will be utter, will be complete. That your will be done.

And whatever we do, we pray we have but one desire. To please you to be acceptable in your sight. Do hear our prayer.

And do be glorified. In Christ we pray.

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