

Are You Sacrificing?

by Wayne Goff

So-called "Christianity" has become so watered down, so consumer friendly, and so politically correct that few worshippers today understand the meaning and importance of **true worship** and its **sacrifice**.

"Sacrifice: an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy" (*Oxford American Dictionaries*). Our English word contains the Latin word *sacer-* which means "holy." Thus sacrificial worship is the declaration that God is higher, holier, and more valuable than we are; thus we give to Him in worship and obeisance.

Jesus is the **perfect sacrifice** -- *giving up* His sinless life for our sinful lives. It was a sacrifice for Jesus, a sacrifice for God, and it was given to us. Shame on us if we do not see the need to return the favor! "*We love Him because He first loved us*" (1 Jn. 4:19).

David understood the importance of sacrifice when he said, "*...nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing*" (2 Sam. 24:24). David practiced sacrificial worship.

Since God has given us **the perfect sacrifice** for sin, what He asks of us in return is our entire selves! A scribe rightly said to Jesus: "*...And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices*" (Mk. 13:33). Dedicated disciples are the Lord's *living sacrifice* today (Rom. 12:1), both in spirit and in body.

Compare these thoughts to those who go "*shopping*" for a church with the mindset of "**What's in it for me?!**" Certainly they do not realize that they do evil, for they are simply mimicking those who have gone before them. But truly, to **serve** a sacrificing God with one's **whole being** is the best religion of all (Acts 20:35)!

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