**R983 Rumination for Nov. 26, 2023 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **To Obey is Better than Sacrifice!** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *Behold,* ***to obey is better than sacrifice****, and to hearken than the fat of rams* I Sam. 15:22

The **T**hots:

1. **The Scriptural Principles Attested to Regarding Sacrifices.**
2. The **P**riority needed in Sacrifice. II Cor. 8:5

*This they did, not as we hoped, but* ***first*** *gave their own selves to the Lord,*

*and unto us by the will of God.*

1. Be **S**anctified to the **W**ays of God – they ***first*** *gave their own selves to the Lord,*
2. **S**urrender to the **W**ill of God. Cf. Rom. 12:2

*…that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

1. Based on the **S**alvation of God. *– by the* *mercies of God.*
2. Based on the **S**ervice for God – *which is* *your reasonable service*
* It Involves the **D**edication of our Lives – *present* *your bodies*
* It must be (1) *a Living Sacrifice.* }

 (2) *Holy* } cf. II Tim. 2:21

 (3) *Acceptable* }

1. **S**eparate from the **W**orld…
2. through the Renova**tion** of the Mind: Cf. Rom. 12:2

*Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,*

1. through the Transforma**tion** of the Life:

*that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

1. The **P**reparedness needed for a true Sacrifice through…
2. A Penit**ent** Life. Psa. 51:16-17 *Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: Thou delightest not in burnt offering.*

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:*

*a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.*

1. An Obedi**ent** Life. I Sam. 15:22

*Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,*

*as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,*

*and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

1. A Consist**ent** Life. Isa. 1:10-17

*To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me? saith the LORD:*

*I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats…Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto Me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies,*

*I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting…*

1. **S**uch **P**resented Sacrifice is an act of **S**piritual **W**orship – Rom. 12:1, HCSB

 *Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship.*

1. **The Stipulated Principal Areas for Sacrifice.** **Lk. 14:26-33**
2. **P**riority to **C**hrist at all **C**osts. Lk. 14:26

*If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*

1. **P**reparedness to follow Christ at all costs. Lk. 14:27

*And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.*

1. **P**rogress in Christ at all Costs. Lk. 24:33

*So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple.*

*The way of the cross means sacrifice, As to God you yield your all;*

*To be laid on the altar, the place of death, Where fire will surely fall.*

*’Tis the way of the cross! are you willing for this?*

*What does bearing the cross mean to you?*

*You who’ve given yourself, your all, to God!*

 *To God are you wholly true?* Mary E. Maxwell

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 983**

1. **(C) Some Personal Acquirements with the Sacrifice. [Cont’d from above]**

 **Or What is SACRIFICE? SACRIFICE involves…**

1. **S**cripture **M**astery. II Tim. 2:15

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,*

*rightly dividing the word of truth.*

1. **A**ttending **M**eetings. Psa. 84:10

*For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.* Cf. Heb. 10:25

1. **C**hristian **M**aturity in Humility. I Pet. 5:5-8

5 *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

*6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

*7 Casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you.*

*8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:* Cf. Eph. 4:13-15

1. **R**eading good **M**aterial –

*Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.* I Tim. 4:13

1. **I**ncreased **M**inistry – Lk. 16:10

*He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much:*

*and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.*

Cf. *For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance:*

*but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.* Mt. 13:12

1. **F**ruitful **M**ultiplication. Jn. 15:2, 5

*Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit,*

*He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit…I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing*

1. **I**nvolved **M**oments – *Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.* Eph. 5:16
2. **C**onsecrated **M**agnanimity II Cor. 8:1-5

*Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;*

*How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.*

*3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;*

*4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.*

 *5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.*

*6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.*

1. **E**qual **M**arriage in your Partnerships. II Cor. 6:14-18 *14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

*15And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

*16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

*17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

*18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

1. *Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD?* ***Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.* I Sam. 15:22**

How does the above text challenge you to a life of sacrifice?­ Which is easier –

To Sacrifice things for Him OR to live Obedient lives for Him? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *Those who give much without sacrifice are reckoned as having given little.* Erwin Lutzer