**R990\_Rumination for Jan. 14, 2024**

The **T**heme:**SACRIFICE**[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *He said,* ***Sacrifice*** *and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin Thou wouldest not…*Heb. 10:8

The **T**hots:

1. **The Sole Sacrifice to pass the test – The Spotless, Sinless Sacrifice of God’s only Son!**

*…neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;*

 *Then said He, Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God.* Heb. 10:8b, 9a

1. **The Scriptural Principles Attested to Our Sacrifice.**
2. The **P**riority in Sacrifice – *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.* II Cor. 8:5

1. **S**urrendered to the **W**ays of God – *gave themselves* Cf. Rom. 12:1, 2
2. It Involves a **D**ecision of the **M**ind – *present*
* Based on the **S**alvation of God – *mercies of God.*
* Based on the **S**ervice for God. *– your reasonable service or your Spiritual Worship* (NRSV)
1. It Involves the **D**edication of our **L**ives – *your bodies*
* Which must be a *Living Sacrifice*, *Holy* and *Acceptable*
1. **S**ubmitted to the **W**ays of God. Rom. 12:2a

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

1. **S**anctified unto the **W**ill of God. Rom. 12:2b

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

1. Non-conformi**ty** to the **W**orld of **M**an (*flesh*) through the Renova**tion**of the **M**ind
2. Identi**ty** with the **W**ill of God through the Transforma**tion** of the Life.
3. The **P**reparedness of Sacrifice
4. A Peni**tent** Life. Psa. 51:16, 17

*For 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 Obed**ient** Life – I Sam. 15:22 cf. Acts 11:6-8

*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…*

1. **The Stipulated Principal Areas for Sacrifice.**
2. **P**riority to Christ at all costs. Lk. 14:26

*“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.*

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

*Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be My disciple*

1. **P**rogress in Christ at all costs. Lk. 14:33

*So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple.*

1. **Some Personal Acquirements with the Sacrifice.**
2. **S**cripture **M**astery II Tim. 2:15

 *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed,*

 *rightly handling the word of truth.*

1. **A**ttend **M**eetings Psa. 84:10 cf. Heb. 10:25

 *I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

1. **C**hristian **M**aturity I Pet. 1:5-8 cf. Eph. 4:13-15

 *Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him,*

 *you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory*

1. **R**eading **M**aterial I Tim. 4:13; cf. II Tim. 4:13

 *Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.*

1. **I**ncreased **M**inistry – *One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much*. Lk. 16:10 cf. Mt. 13:12
2. **F**ruitful **M**ultiplications. Jn. 15:2, 5 cf. I Cor. 15:58

 *Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing*

1. **I**nvolved **M**oments – *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil* Eph. 5:16
2. ***C****onsecrated* ***M****agnanimity* II Co. 8:1-5

 *…their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part*

1. **E**qual **M**arriages. II Cor. 6:14-18

*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness?*

*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?* M. E. Maxwell.

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 990**

1. Today many religious and pious adherents of religion talk of ritualistic sacrifices which need to be offered to their cult deities in the form of various specified forms as demanded by the dictates and declarations of their respective religion. Much attention is paid to these physical forms of so-called piety without paying much attention to the inward reforms that must first exhibit themselves. As they are, they are just mere forms that do not transform lives. This was indeed true with regard to the nation of Israel who paid meticulous attention to the outwards forms and demands of physical sacrifices without paying attention to the change of lives needed to accompany such offerings and sacrifices.

Thus, the Lord’s reprimands and rebukes of Israel’s ritualistic and religious sacrifices which were offered without any heart-content and readiness to obey God with life-transformation. Consider God’s very serious rebukes on their relationship with Him as we read from the pen of Isaiah regarding their very impenitent and rebellious relationship with the Lord Himself as pronounced by Isaiah 1:1-7 below:

***The vision of Isaiah*** *the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.*

**The Wickedness of Judah**

 *2  Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the Lord has spoken:*

 *“Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against Me.*

 *3  The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s crib,*

 *but* ***Israel does not know, My people do not understand.”***

 *4  Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity,*

 *offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly!*

 *They have forsaken the Lord, they have despised the Holy One of Israel,*

 *they are utterly estranged.*

 *5  Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel?*

 *The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.*

 *6  From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it,*

 *but bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up*

 *or softened with oil.*

 *7  Your country lies desolate; your cities are burned with fire;*

 *in your very presence foreigners devour your land;*

 *it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners.*

What then was the good of the numerous sacrifices when the inner heart was rebellious and disobedient far from God? Do we ever wonder that sometimes we can also fall into such a predicament and therefore in peril of facing such condemnation and judgment from the Lord Himself? **REFLECT**

1. Perhaps as a parting word on Sacrifice, we should consider the timeless words of CT Studd himself who sacrificed much to prove his words quoted by many over the generations: “*If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him*.” ― C.T. Studd

His Premise was, *If Jesus Christ be God and died for me,*

Surely you and I can truly subscribe to this fully,

Then the Proof that we believe in our Premise can only be –

*then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.*

Is there something in our life too dear for us to give up for Him that we might be what He wants us to be; that we cannot sacrifice because it is too dear to us?

Perhaps for those who do not know CT Studd’s Life of Sacrifice they might like to read Norman Percy Grubb’s Book on CT Studd, Cricketer and Pioneer to find out what Studd meant by Sacrifice – <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1025529.C_T_Studd> **REFLECT**

**Points to Ponder:** Samuel’s words to Saul are as true today as they were yesterday:

I Sam. 15:22 – *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams*