

Intro.

- A. The picture of a godly man offering a sacrifice to Jehovah God is a familiar snapshot seen in the album of God's family (i.e., the Holy Bible).
1. In your mind's eye, you can probably see vividly some of those flannel graph pictures from childhood:
    - a. Cain's jealous gaze set on his brother, & the intense resentment that resulted because Able's sacrifice was more acceptable to God than was Cain's. (**Gen. 4:2-10**)
    - b. What about the alter Noah erected his family's deliverance from that great deluge, (**Gn. 8:18-20**)
    - c. Abraham sacrifice on Moriah, **Gn. 22;**
    - d. **Ex. 12** – the Passover lamb → **1 Cor. 5:7**, Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
  2. Christ attitude about sacrifices is clear:
    - a. He took for granted that the Jews were involved in offering sacrifices, **Mt. 5:24**
    - b. Still, he commended the scribe who put love to God & man above sacrifice, **Mt. 9:13**
    - c. When he became the perfect sin-offering; there would never be need again for such, **Heb. 9:23fff**
  3. Paul taught that O. T. sacrifices = types of the true sacrifice which Christ made (**1 Cor. 5:7**)
- B. Although N.T. writers make it clear that animal sacrifices are past, there prevails an attitude of sacrifice that will forever more characterize God's people. disciple.
1. **Mt. 10:37; Mt. 13:44; Lk. 14:33** – *whoever of you does not forsake all that he has, cannot be my* \\
  2. In lesson text, Paul *implores, begs* (beseech) the church to present themselves = a living sacrifice!!!
  3. That sacrifice is still expected today, so like Israel of old, let us rehearse & remember just what God expects for our own sakes, as well as for future generations. (**Ecc. 12:14; Jn. 12:25**)

Discuss.**I. THE MOTIVE FOR SELF SACRIFICE.**

- A. "The *mercies of God*"
1. Paul seems to be saying: *Because God has been so gracious to us, we need to return that love.*
  2. In the words of **1 Jn. 4:19**, *We love Him because He first loved us.*
  3. Remember when David took a census of Israel against Joab's warning? The king eventually concluded That the Lord's mercies are greater than man's. (**2 Sam. 24:4**).
  4. **Psa 117:2** *For his merciful kindness is great toward us:*
- B. A grateful servant makes the best servant.
1. Need to remember lesson recorded by Moses in **Deut. 15:17** (– a willing servant offering himself).
  2. It's the same lesson Jesus taught in **Lk. 15:19**

**II. THE DESIGNATED SACRIFICE: YOUR BODIES.**

- A. Our bodies is part of our whole man – we are made up of both body & spirit. (1<sup>st</sup> cent. Gnostics didn't get)
1. Our body = instrument by which all service is rendered. We cannot just *think right*, but must *do right*
  2. Since our mind controls the movements & action of our body, we are challenged in **Rom. 6:12-13, 19**
- B. From **1 Cor. 6:19**, we become increasingly aware of our responsibility to control our bodies, need to...
1. Watch our *eyes*,
    - a. See Jesus – suffering death...crowned with glory...eventually to see all things subject to Him, **Heb.2:9**
    - b. Look on eternal things that cannot be seen w/ our eyes; but thru the eye of faith, c. **Heb. 11:10**
    - c. Don't longingly look back to the ways of the world as did Lot's wife (**Gn. 19:70**)
    - c. Nor should we look & assess people only by their outward appearance, **1 Sam. 16:7**
    - d. Lust usually begins with a glance that develops into a longing stare, **Mt. 5:28 & Jas. 1:14-15**
  2. Watch our *ears*.
    - a. Be swift to hear God's instructions (**Heb. 2:1**)
    - b. Should stop our ears f/ hearing flattery (typically tied to deceit & lying (**Psa. 78:36**))
    - c. 18 X's God tells us to be good listeners – *he that has ears, let him hear* – (**Jas. 1:19** = *swift to hear*)

3. Controlling our bodies includes that smallest member (tongue).
  - a. **Prov. 10:18** -- ...*he that utters slander is a fool.*
  - b. Be responsible for what come out of your mouth! (**Eph. 4:29**)
4. Same lesson applies to our hands. (Not instruments of destruction, but of helping & building **Eph. 4:28**)
5. Our *feet* should not be every running towards mischief (**Prov. 6:18**), but run in service to God & man, **Mt. 25:36**

### III. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS SACRIFICE.

#### A. *A Living sacrifice*

1. Unlike Jewish sacrifices, Christian's sacrifice is not consumed in death, although there is a kind of death that is involved in this sacrifice (c. **Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20**;)
  2. **Rom. 6:10-11**

#### B. *A Holy sacrifice*

**& 21**

1. O.T.sacrifices were to be w/o spot or blemish. (c. **Lev. 1:3**), & those offering sacrifice => clean **Lev.11,**
2. This typifies Christ as High Priest & perfect sacrifice (c. **Heb 4:14-15; 2 Cor. 5:21**)
3. This is why we are to present our bodies *holy*, **1 Pet. 1:15; Jas. 1:27; Eph. 5:27.**

#### C. *A Spiritual sacrifice*

1. This is service that is offered by intelligence, reason & understanding ((not mechanical)).
2. The animal sacrificed of the law of Moses were w/o reason or understanding ((dumb animals)).
3. Christ knew (c. **Jn. 12:27**) & submitted to the Father's will purposefully, & so must we (c. **Mt. 7:21**)

#### Concl.

#### A. Such a sacrifice is reasonable

1. It is appropriate for us to follow the example of Christ in being a living, "holy", spiritual sacrifice.
2. It is acceptable & well-please to God, as was the odor of the burnt offerings under law of Moses,

**Ex. 29:18ff**

#### B. The offering of the Lamb of God was a sweet smell to heaven, **Eph. 5:2**

- C. If you are willing to trust in the Lord, turn away from your sins, make the good confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, & have your sins washed away & purified by Jesus' shed blood as you are baptized...
- D. ...Then your living sacrifice will be received by God as acceptable & just as much a sweet smell, well-pleasing to God.