

Spiritual Sacrifices Acceptable to God

TEXT: 1 Peter 2:5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS IMPORTANT IN THE NT.
 - 1. Important distinction in the Old Law between priesthood and others.
 - 2. Clergy is a special class in the denominations.
 - 3. But the New Testament teaches otherwise(**Rev. 1:5-6; 1 Pet. 2:9**).
 - 4. We are all priests.
- B. OUR ROLE AS PRIESTS DESCRIBED(**Heb. 8:3; 1 Pet. 2:5**).
- C. WE NEED TO STUDY FURTHER.

I. SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES.

- A. TYPES OF SACRIFICES TO BE OFFERED BY CHRISTIANS.
 - 1. Our bodies, as "living sacrifices"(**Rom. 12:1-2**).
 - 2. A lifestyle characterized by sacrificial love(**Eph. 5:1-2**).
 - 3. Praise and thanksgiving, which we do in prayer and song(**Heb. 13:15**).
 - 4. Doing good and sharing with others(**Heb. 13:16; Phil. 4:15-18**).
 - 5. Even in the way we die for the Lord!(**Phil. 1:20; 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6**).
- B. THE PURPOSE OF THESE SACRIFICES.
 - 1. In the Old Testament, sacrifices were offered for one of two reasons.
 - a. To sanctify unto the cleanness of the flesh(**Heb. 9:13**).
 - b. To make remembrance of sin year by year(**Heb. 10:3**).
 - 2. But in the New Testament only Jesus can provide the sacrifice needed to restore us back to God(**Heb. 10:11-18**).
 - a. Therefore, our sacrifices are not to "remove sin" or "earn" heaven!
 - b. Rather, to express thanksgiving and praise, and love for his goodness!

II. ACCEPTABLE TO GOD.

- A. IT MUST BE THE BEST WE HAVE TO OFFER(**Mal. 1:6-8**).
 - 1. Otherwise we despise the Name of God by offering "defiled food."
 - 2. Be careful not to "shut the doors."(**Mal. 1:9-11**).
- B. IT MUST BE OFFERED WITH SINCERITY AND ZEAL(**Mal. 1:12-13**).
 - 1. Lack of either results in offering "blemished sacrifices"(**Mal. 1:14-2:1-9**).
 - 2. Does this apply to our spiritual sacrifices, like singing praises? doing good?
- C. OFFERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH RIGHTEOUS LIVES(**Mal. 2:13-16**).
 - 1. The priests of Malachi's day had been quick to endorse divorce.
 - 2. Righteousness is important to God(**Isa. 1:10-18; 1 Pet. 3:12; 1 John 3:7**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. SOME IN MALACHI'S DAY DIDN'T VALUE SERVICE (**Mal. 3:13-15**).
- B. OTHERS HEADED HIS WORD(**Mal. 3:16-18**).
- C. SHALL WE BE AMONG THOSE WHO SERVE GOD?(**Rom. 6:17:18; 6:3-4**).