

What is Sacrifice? January 20, 2016

The definition of sacrifice I wish to use for this writing is:

*An act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy.

Hebrews 9:11-15, 23-28 - But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance....23Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another- 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

John 19:17-24 - And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, 18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. 19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. 21 Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not

write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews."' 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." 23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. 24 They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things.

We know the story continues on but I really want us to get an image of this in our mind. There is a movie that, despite all the controversy surrounding it, gives a very vivid image of how much our Lord suffered. Even the movie cannot convey the full picture of everything our Lord went through. Why did He choose to go through all of this? For you and I. You may still ask why because certainly none of us deserve it.

Hebrews 12:2 - looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Romans 3:24-26 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

He sacrificed Himself out of His love for all of us. This includes those who do not believe in Him. What have any of us sacrificed lately?

We are all screaming "Come, Jesus! Come!" Though I do believe our time is drawing shorter before His imminent return, do we really want Him to come right this moment? If He comes right this moment there will be many that have not had the opportunity to have the true living God preached to them. Of course there are many preachers on television, on the Internet, and in every denomination of Christianity. Does this mean that everyone has heard the true gospel of Jesus Christ? We are (not was and not maybe but are) all sinners. We were before we came to Christ and there are still issues in our life that each of us can do

better. If you need an example think of all the words you spoke today. How many times did you say something negative? How many times did you think something negative about someone else (yes those count also)? Possibly about that unsaved person you know. Or about that person at your church that you have an issue with. The point is that our Lord is merciful to everything we do and it is time that we understand His mercy along with His judgments. His ways are higher than ours and I dare say we haven't even begun to scratch the surface of what God as judge looks like.

We must sacrifice ourselves to understand what the Word truly says. We must sacrifice our time, our preconceived traditional notions, and our ways. We must especially sacrifice our judgments of one another (I'm working on this myself) to at least glean a portion of God's trueness. As much as I want to say "Come Lord come" in the physical I'd rather be saying "Come to the Lord. He loves you. He gave everything for you. Come before it is too late." I am working on making sacrifices to come to this place. Are you willing to join the Lord in this?

Lord, help me to see Your people as You do. Help me to come to every end of myself that I need to. Strengthen and encourage me, Lord, in every place I need to be strengthened and encouraged. Let it start with me, Lord. Forgive me, Lord, for any unrighteousness judgments I have made towards any of Your people. Help me to be forgiving of myself as You forgave me. Help me to be forgiving of others that have caused me harm. I release them to You, Lord. I renounce any unforgiveness I have held on to. Help me to give my all to You, Lord. Thank You Lord for Your mercy and compassion towards me. Help me treat others the way You treat me. By Your name, Jesus, I pray this. Amen!

-Alicia R. Shipe-