

Introduction

sacrifice

Sacrifice of Praise

Background

1. Historical and Theological Themes of the Book

The book of Hebrews is grounded in the work of the Levitical priesthood.

The epistle to the Hebrews is a study in contrast, between the imperfect and incomplete provisions of the Old Covenant, given under Moses, and the infinitely better provisions of the New Covenant offered by the perfect High-Priest, God's only Son and the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

One of the key theological themes in Hebrews is that all believers now have direct access to God under the New Covenant and, therefore, may approach the throne of God boldly.

The primary teaching symbolized by the tabernacle service was that believers under the covenant of law did not have direct access to the presence of God (9:8), but were shut out of the Holy of Holies.

Summary of the Book

Believers in Jesus Christ, as God's perfect sacrifice for sin, have the perfect High-Priest through whose ministry everything is new and better than under the covenant of law.
(John MacArthur)

Context

The last chapter of the epistle focuses on some of the essential practical ethics of Christian living.

1. Brotherly Love

2. Entertain Strangers

3. Remember Prisoners of the Gospel

4. God Highly Honors Marriage

5. Contentment

6. Remember Faithful Leaders

7. Have an Accurate View of Jesus

8. Avoid Teaching Contrary to God's Word

Sacrifice of Praise

The Analogy

1. The Altar

2. The Analogy

3. The Bold Challenge

The Message

1. Therefore

2. by Him

3. ...offer the sacrifice of praise

- a. *continually*
- b. *to God*
- c. *the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name*

In Vayikra Rabba, sect. 9, fol. 153, and Rabbi Tanchum, fol. 55:

"Rabbi Phineas, Rabbi Levi, and Rabbi Jochanan, from the authority of Rabbi Menachem of Galilee, said, In the time of the Messiah all sacrifice shall cease, except the sacrifice of praise."

This was, in effect, quoting the authority of one of their own maxims,

that now was the time of the Messiah;
that Jesus was that Messiah;
that the Jewish sacrificial system was now abolished; and
that no (blood) sacrifice would now be accepted of God,
except the sacrifice of praise for the gift of his Son.

(Adam Clark)

4. What additional sacrifices are we to offer?

The sacrifices of praise coming from the lips of God's people please Him only when accompanied by loving action.

- a. *do good*
- b. *share*

share

What will the sacrifice of praise for the gift of his Son lead to in practical sacrifices to God?

- 1. Doing good for others,
- 2. Being in visible fellowship with the body of Christ.

5. How will God respond to our sacrifices?

Summary

Praise, prayer, and thanksgiving to God, with works of charity and mercy to man, are the sacrifices which every genuine follower of Christ must offer:

and they are the proofs that a man belongs to Christ; and he who does not hear these fruits gives full evidence, whatever his creed may be, that he is no Christian.

(Adam Clarke)

How about you?

- 1. Do you boldly identify with Christ?**
- 2. Do you offer the sacrifice of praise to God?**
- 3. Do you do good for others?**
- 4. Are you an active member of the body of Christ?**

Hebrews 13:

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

~ Pastor Mark D. Montgomery