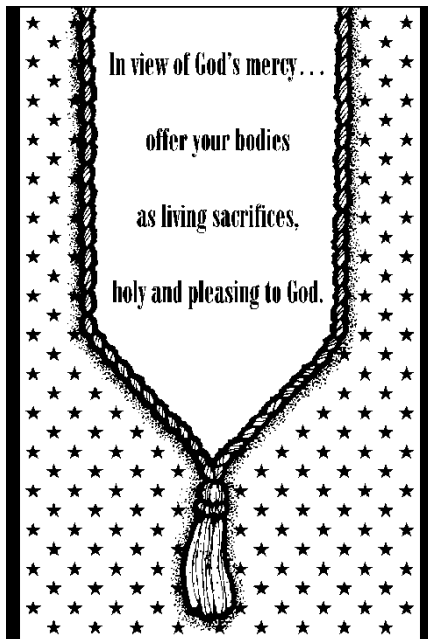


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 8



OFFERINGS A TYPE OF HOLINESS

Scripture Texts: Exodus 28:36-38; Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Hebrews 9:13-14

The natural unregenerate person sees no difference between dead works and holy ones. They look much the same from the outside. It is easy to think, "I do good things, I give and help, I'm kind and honest. Surely, God will accept me." This is offering our works in place of Christ. Only the fruit of His like working in us is acceptable to God. The offering to Him must be holiness. Holiness is the absence of sin. Yes! But it is more. It is godliness-partaking in the life of God.

All of the Old Testament points forward to Christ. All of the forms of the old covenant worship are types pointing to the work of Christ in the heart of man.

MEMORY VERSE: *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. —Hebrews 10:4*

God's Requirement

Exodus 28:36-38 Aaron was chosen by God to be the first high priest of Israel. The peculiar dress of priests was prescribed by God. Each part had symbolic meaning. The priest was to **bear the iniquity of the holy things...their holy gifts**. The offerings must be hallowed, cleansed, set apart for God. The priest offered the sacrifices by virtue of his office. The process prescribed by God symbolically removed their contamination and made them acceptable unto God. The works in gold, **HOLINESS TO THE LORD**, worn on his forehead meant the priest bore the iniquity or made atonement for the gifts and was offering a holy offering to God. It was a symbolical holiness of material objects brought about by ceremony.

Our offering now in the Christian dispensation is ourselves, our lives. Christ is our High Priest. As Aaron bore the iniquity of the sacrifices to hallow them, so Christ bore our sins on the Cross to cleanse and make us holy. As Aaron presented the sacrifices to God, so Christ presents His people to His Father. Israel's gifts must be hallowed; Christ's gifts must be holy too. Israel's gifts were typically or symbolically holy. We must be really and spiritually holy. Holy people are sinless and filled with God the Holy Spirit (**Romans 12:1; Romans 15:16; Hebrews 9:28; Jude 24**). The Law required holiness in offerings to God. The new covenant requires the same.

Things provided for worship of God were of such sacredness that any contamination of them was punished by cutting off from God's people, or at times, death (**Exodus 30:22-38; Numbers 4:4-20**). If the symbol required such reverent care, how must we treat the spiritual realities? (See **Hebrews 10:28-29**). If God required holiness in material objects, what does He require in people now? He accepts nothing less than holiness.

Under the Law, uncleanness of vessels or persons had to be cleansed. The blood of animals was the means of cleansing provided. Under the new covenant, for every cleansing, a sacrifice is necessary. The precious blood of Jesus provided this cleansing. (**Hebrews 9:22-26**).

A Holy Nation

Exodus 19:5-6 *If ye will obey ... and keep my covenant.* This refers to the covenant of God with Israel at Sinai. God promised the Israelites that they would be His peculiar possession above all people if they would obey His voice and keep His covenant. It was a contract entered into by two parties; each was bound to the other by certain obligations (**Genesis 12:1-3**). God said He would make them a **kingdom of priests, and an holy**

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nation. He would set them apart from other nations for Himself. Their part was to obey Him. Their cleansing was accomplished by ceremony and outward washing of themselves and clothing and turning from daily work. This was a type of holiness representing something spiritual to come later.

The tabernacle and its parts had to be cleansed and made holy to be of use to the people and acceptable to God. Atonement was made for them (**Leviticus 16:16-20**). These symbols mean that our lives must be cleansed and made holy by the atoning blood of Christ. This is the type.

1 Peter 2:9-10 In this dispensation, the church is a **royal priesthood** – kings ruling over sin and priests allowed to come before God with prayers and offerings. **An holy nation** – free from sin and led by the Holy Spirit. This is the antitype. Israel (the type) was chosen, cleansed in form, and set apart as an earthly nation. The church (the antitype) is chosen, cleansed in heart, and set apart as a spiritual body. It is a **peculiar people**, different from all others, belonging to God alone.

Sacrifices for Cleansing

Hebrews 9:13-14 All earthly things and people are unholy. To become holy, they must be cleansed by sacrifice. **The blood of bulls and of goats** was shed in the animal sacrifices of Israel. Ashes of a heifer were used in making water of separation (**Numbers 19:9**). These purified the flesh, which is, cleansed in an earthly sense. They could not remove sin from the heart. They were but types of the greater, the real, cleanser, **the blood of Christ**. Even though it was taken by the hands of wicked men in anger and hate, on Christ's part, it was offered willingly in the power of the Spirit as a gift (**John 10:17-18**). Animal or purely human blood could never give spiritual life or cleanse from sin. It took the blood of Christ.

It purges from **dead works** or works done in one's own natural strength and will. The life of God is not in such. They can produce no salvation or approval from God for us. The blood of Christ does produce salvation. It turns us from dependence on **dead works** and connects us with **the living God**. The shed blood of Christ produces holy life in man. Man, in turn, offers it back to God in the form of the fruit of the Spirit.

JUST A THOUGHT

**It is unreasonable to expect a child
to listen to your advice and ignore your example.**

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