

The Servant



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The purpose of this newsletter is to pass along information and ideas to help the Lord's servants as they minister to others. Feel free to use any of it in your ministry

More, More About Jesus

The Lord Jesus Christ is both our Great High Priest and our all sufficient sacrifice. We are saved by faith in what Christ offered up on the altar of altars. It was all his life, his blood, his sacrifice. We are saved by grace. We are not saved or accepted because of what we do or have done, but by what He has done. Any service or "ministry" that turns attention away from him, to "us" is an abomination. Unfortunately, much of modern Christianity is about "us." It is "our" church, or "our" group, or "our" faithfulness, or "our" obedience. Much of church history is a kind of sibling rivalry and denominational struggle between "us" and "them." There is too much about "us," and not enough about Him.


Mega-churches and dying assemblies share in this common error. Every group lays claim to being God's favorite, and by so doing immediately shifts attention away from Him. Jesus said, "follow me." How could we miss or mess up this simple message? We have. Somewhere along the line the message changed to "Hey, look at us, we're following Him," when the message should be, "Hey, follow Him!"

Now, if we are interested in following Him we will live differently than those who don't. If we follow the one who went to the cross, we will walk the way of the cross. If we follow him, we at times will walk with others, but many times we will have to walk alone. Yes there is a "Bride." And yes, there is a "People of God," and a "Holy Nation," but souls enter and leave this world one by one. We don't go to heaven or hell in groups. It was Paul's desire that all Israel be saved, and it is a healthy heart that is a burdened heart that can weep over Jerusalem. Yet all the religious bigotry, tyranny, and terror this world has known has been accompanied with a lot of talk about "us" and "them." I have heard the denominational "shop talk" of this group and

that, and what they all had in common was that there was very little talk about "Him."

Bacterial infections are easier to recognize and fight than a virus. A virus, (today, their name is legion) lives by invading a cell and replacing the healthy center with something else. A thousand different "something elses" can take the rightful place of Christ. Sometimes it even looks like Christ, but it is not. Sometimes the church is infiltrated by a "cause." Woe to us if we get in the way of some man's cause. Even the so-called "cause of Christ" is something other than Christ. There is a big difference between a man following Christ and a man following what he calls the "cause of Christ." One need only study the Spanish Inquisition to see how dangerous that is.

John points out that if we have fellowship with the Father and with the Son, we will have fellowship with others who share this same desire. Fellowship with one another is secondary to fellowship with Him. Somewhere along the line, like disciples arguing among themselves about "who is the greatest," many became so preoccupied with "our" fellowship that we forget all about him.

Yes, Peter James and John were there on the mountain (to say nothing of Moses, and Elijah), but they learned to see Jesus only, and so must we. When it is about us, it is just a franchise. When it is about Him, it is a faith once delivered to the saints. Follow Him. 

Him

I love the way you love him
But I'll always love him more
I love the way you gather
But it's Him I still look for

I love the way you worship
And I love the hymns you sing
But His alone the wine I sip
And He alone my King

He Offered Himself

The Offerings of the Tabernacle were shadows of greater things to come. They were for our benefit as much as those who touched them, for in them we see the completeness, sufficiency, and salvation that is found in Christ. There were five.

1. The burnt offering- is a picture of Christ in his complete and absolute obedience Offering Himself and accepted of the Father. Lev. 1:3 Everything was consumed in the flames. The priests got nothing. All that was left was ashes. It was called a sweet savor. This has to do with God's acceptable pleasure in the complete obedience of Christ. (Eph. 5:2; Heb. 9:14)

2. The meal offering (Lev. 2)- consisted of flour finely ground. Fine flour, without a single grain that was coarse. There is much in us that is coarse. Not so the Lord Jesus. There were no rough spots in him. There were no hard places. This flour was then "mingled" with oil. Then oil was poured upon it. "Mingled" and "poured." The first speaks of the Holy Spirit in his consummation, and the mysterious thing that took place in the womb of a virgin. The second was the anointing for ministry of manhood. The meal offering points to the fact that Jesus – was the perfect man. Jesus was according to CHM "formed, filled, anointed, and led" by the Holy Ghost. – We are more prone to run- unsent- and fail because we operate in the power of the flesh.

Jesus did everything by the power (utter reliance upon) of the Holy Spirit. The Frankincense- everything was done of the glory of God.

The third ingredient of this offering was salt. Col. 4:6. Whereas the frankincense

brought glory to God, the salt spoke of a pungent necessity of truth which was beneficial to man.

No leaven. A symbol for sin. Leaven is sour, and something that puffs up- There was no evil, no sin, no leaven in Jesus- He was never sour- he was never puffed up.

No Honey- Nature's claims had no hold or influence on our Savior's obedience to God (Mk. 3:31). Even the close sweet relationship of his mother was not allowed to impose itself through natural affections over his obedience to the Father. I once knew a man who said he knew how to "sweeten the pot" meaning he knew how to get people to do what he wanted. How sad. God does not attempt to entice us. Lev. 6:14(1Pet. 2:9)

3. The Peace offering The Priests partook of it – they were not just spectators, but participators. Lev. 7:28 speaks of the breast (that is the affections) and the right shoulder (that is the strength). We share in it. Here the Prodigal partakes of the fatted calf at the same table as the father- in fellowship and in peace. It should be pointed out that in the peace offering the blood was sprinkled around the altar- this is the basis- of our communion. We are wearing the "best" robe. We are not sinners in filthy rags. Col. 1:20-22

Lev. 4:2 None of the above are a sin offering (Lev. 3:5, also 7:11) for they are called a sweet savor to the Lord. The last two offerings were anything but sweet.

4. Sin Offering. Sin affords no sweetness. The animal was slain before the Lord, the blood poured out at the base of the altar, the fat burned upon the altar, but the flesh- carried without the camp and burned there. (Heb. 13:11-12; Jn. 1:30; Heb. 9:27; 2Cor. 5:21; 1Pet. 2:24;

1 Cor. 15:3; Gal. 1:4; Heb. 9:28; Jn 1:36- 1Pet 2:22-24; Isa 53 Heb. 9:11-14) Imparting in the Sweet Savoring offerings- the virtues of the offering were imparted to the offerer; In the Non-Sweet offerings- the vileness of the sinner was imparted to the offering- It became his sin. Lev. 6:2

5. Trespass offering. In the trespass offering- "sins" in particular are brought into question. Conscience comes with offering for sin- Eph. 4:28- You know not what grace means and have never been touched by its power if you don't go away different and determined to do right, even if it means –restoring fourfold what you have stolen. 2Tim 2:19. 1Jn. 1:9

Dr. Culross remarks :That while the sin-offering looked to the sinful state of the offerer, the trespass-offering was appointed to meet actual transgressions, the fruit of the sinful state. The sin-offering set forth propitiation, the trespass-offering set forth satisfaction. It was brought forth to make amends.

There is no blood or altar now, the sacrifice is o'er. Paul would say however, "*I beseech you therefore brethren, my the mercies of God, that you present yourselves a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service.*" Rom. 12:1 May our lives be our sacrifice and thank offering to God 🕯

Burn Oh flame, as faith within
on the altar of my heart
may my songs be all of Him
Oh Christ "How Great Thou Art."



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