

to Christ dying for our sins. His death brought them to an end, but the Lord still desires to receive spiritual sacrifices from His people.

God puts no merit in any attempts to earn His favour or call attention to oneself. But He delights in deeds that spring from faith that works through love (Gal. 5:6). They are spiritual sacrifices that come from giving ourselves completely to Him (Rom. 12:1-2). He is pleased when we continually give thanks in Jesus' name, do good, and share with others (Heb. 13:15-16).

Some spiritual sacrifices will be costly. But what is gained--His praise--is always greater than what is given up. --DJD

*The gifts that we may give,
The deeds that we may do
Most truly honour Christ
When self is given too. --DJD*

**When Christ's love fills your heart,
the more you give, the more you gain.**



Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Sacrifices That Please God

You . . . are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God. --1 Peter 2:5

A man touring a rural area of the Far East saw a boy pulling a crude plough while an old man held the handles and guided it through the rice paddy. The visitor commented, "I suppose they are poor."

"Yes," said his guide. "When their church was built, they wanted to give something to help but they had no money. So they sold their only ox. This spring they are pulling the plough themselves."

Under Old Testament law, God required animal sacrifices, which pointed





I Peter: Overcoming Suffering The Forgotten Resource

In 1 Peter 2:4-10 Peter gives us three descriptions of the church that will ultimately enable us to strengthen and help each other through times of trial:

1. The church is one

_____ with
Jesus Christ as the

verses 4-8

(Isaiah 28:16) "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily."

(Hebrews 5:8) "though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered."

(Romans 1:18) "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all .. who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,"

(Romans 1:26) "For this reason God gave them up ..."

(Luke 2:34) "... Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, .."

(Matthew 16:18) "..." .. on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

2. The church is one _____ offering _____ _____ to God, verses 5, 9

(John 15:16) "..."You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, ..."

(Titus 2:14) "who gave Himself for us, that He might .. purify for Himself His own special people, ..."

(Ephesians 4:24) "and that you put on the new man .. in true righteousness and holiness."

(1 John 2:20) "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, ..."

(Romans 12:1) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, .. that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, .. which is your reasonable service."

(Galatians 5:16) "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

(Malachi 2:7) "..."For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts."

(Exodus 19:6) "..."And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation....""

(Hebrews 7:1) "For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham ...,"



(2 Chronicles 26:16) "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense."

(2 Chronicles 26:21) "King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. ..."

What are they?

◆ Our whole _____ given to God,

(Romans 12:1) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice..."

◆ P _____,

(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."

◆ _____ to others,

(Hebrews 13:16) "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

◆ Generous _____,

(Philippians 4:18) "... a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God."

◆ The people we _____ to Christ,

◆ _____ others,

◆ P _____,



3. The church is the _____ people of God, _____ and _____, verses 9-10

(Hosea 1:9) "... For you are not My people, And I will not be your God."

(Hosea 2:23) "... Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!'"

(Hosea 1:6) "... For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, ..."

(Hosea 2:23) "... And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; ..""