



## LIVING SACRIFICE

In today's culture what do we mean when we "sacrifice" something?

God initiated the sacrificial system in the Old Testament because the consequence of sin is death (Rom 6:23). The Israelites were told they could provide an animal to sacrifice to atone for their sins and remove God's wrath against them.

Do you think giving this sacrifice would have been approached with reluctance and sense of loss? Keep in mind, every animal sacrificed represented a loss of potential income.

Fast forward to the New Testament

### **Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

**What does it mean for us to be a living sacrifice?**

**When an animal was given for a sacrifice, what was the main qualification for it being acceptable? How about us?**

### **Romans 12:1 (NIV)**

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**Galatians 5:19-21 (NLT)**

*When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*

**Jesus tells us to pick up our cross and follow him.**

**Luke 14:27 (NIV)**

*And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*

**What do you think Jesus means?**

**Let's first think about Jesus' ministry.**

**At what points did Jesus pick up his cross? In other words, when did Jesus express a willingness to die to self?**

a)

b)

**How are we to "pick up our cross" and follow Jesus?**

**When are some times you've experienced persecution for following Jesus?**

**Is the "mission" you are currently living out worth dying for?**

**How do we know what it is God wants us to do?**



**Romans 12:2 (NIV)**

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

**In light of offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices, everything we do now becomes an expression of fulfilling HIS purposes on earth.**

**Read the following verses that spur us on to take seriously the building of the kingdom of God through our lives.**

**Underline the phrases that encourage you to live with kingdom focus.**

**1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)**

*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

**Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

**Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV)**

*Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

**Colossians 4:5 (NIV)**

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.*

**Galatians 6:9 (NIV)**

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

**What is stopping us from focusing our lives on building the kingdom of God?**

**How can we change that this week?**



What do you think might be some of the benefits of being a living sacrifice?

**Revelation 22:12 (NIV)**

*Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.*



<b>Old Testament (39 books)</b>		
<b>History (17)</b>	<b>Poetry (5)</b>	<b>Prophecy (17)</b>
<b>The Law (5) Pentateuch</b>	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs	<b>Major Prophets (5) Large</b>
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy		Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel
<b>Other Historical books (12)</b>		<b>Minor Prophets (12) Small</b>
Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther		Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

<b>New Testament (27 books)</b>				
<b>History (5)</b>	<b>Paul's Letters to Churches (9)</b>	<b>Paul's Letters to Individuals (4)</b>	<b>Others' Letters (8)</b>	<b>Prophecy (1)</b>
Matthew Mark Luke John  Acts	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians	1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude	Revelation



In the space below, write out all the books of the Old Testament from memory.

**Books of Moses**

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**Major Prophets**

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**Other Historical**

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**Poetry**

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In the space below write out the 5 historical books, 9 Pauline letters to churches, 4 Pauline letters to individuals, the 8 letters from other writers and the one prophecy.

**Historical Books**

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**Paul's Letter to Individuals**

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**Paul's Letter to Churches**

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**Others' Letters**

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**Prophecy**

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**Books of Moses**

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**Major Prophets**

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**Other Historical**

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**Minor Prophets**

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**Poetry**

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**Historical Books**

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**Paul's Letter to Individuals**

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**Paul's Letter to Churches**

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**Others' Letters**

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**Prophecy**

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