

SACRIFICES OF A CHRISTIAN

Rom 12:1-20

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The word "sacrifice" primarily denotes the act of offering; then objectively, that which is offered (Vines). It can be things done or things given
- B. A man was feeling low and blue, feeling that life had been rather hard for him. But he decided to count his blessings and realized that he had received many. Then he decided to count his sacrifices for the Lord. But he could not think of even one real sacrifice that he had ever made for the Lord.
- C. Every good parent (mother or father) can think of great sacrifices they have made for their children. But how many of us are really offering up sacrifices to God?
- D. Consider with me now some sacrifices the Lord wants us to make

DISCUSSION:

I. SACRIFICE OF PRAISE Heb 13:15

- A. This is rendered in prayer, in song, in conversation
1Pet 2:9; Psa 100
 1. Do we involve ourselves when we pray, sing and discuss God's word
 2. This praise should be from the heart Matt 15:8
 3. A young man explaining his hoarseness, said: "I yelled myself hoarse at a football game." How many have sung praises or prayed to God till they were hoarse
- B. Sacrifice of praise is to be by (through or by means of) Christ Heb 13:15
- C. It is to be the fruit of our lips 1Cor 14:15; Col 3:16,17 rather than the fruit of a mechanical instrument

II. SACRIFICE OF DOING GOOD AND COMMUNICATING Heb 13:16

- A. We can't do all of our sacrificing with words
- B. There is much teaching on the giving of material substance 1Cor 16:1,2; 2Cor 9:6-10; Mk 12:41-44; Matt 25:31-46
- C. Sacrificial giving is in reality saving 1Tim 6:17-19; Matt 6:19-21
- D. The Macedonians sacrificed to give, and that which lead them to do so was first giving themselves 2Cor 8:1-5

III. SACRIFICE OF OUR BODIES Rom 12:1,2

- A. This sacrifice involves oneself
 1. Not many are required to die for Christ today but all are asked to live for him 1Cor 6:19,20; 2Cor 5:14,15

2. Story of a man who sacrificed his body to football: "win or lose he's never home during football season." she said, "He's gone all day Saturday and after church on Sundays till seven or eight o'clock, to say nothing of every day until 8,9,10 or even 11 o'clock," she said, "In fact, he takes those plays to bed with him."
3. If someone spent that much time working for the Lord, studying the Bible and attending Gospel Meetings he would be called a "fanatic".
- B. This sacrifice involves use of our tongues to teach, invite others; to read to our children, teach them to pray, etc.
 1. Involves use of our hands in helping others; passing out tracts, etc, etc.
 2. Someone may say "things like that tire me to death" but remember Rev 14:13; Matt 16:25; Jhn 12:25
 3. Some say, "I just don't have the time to spare" must remember Jas 4:13-17
 4. Others say: "that's just too hard; I just can't make that great a sacrifice." remember Matt 16:26; Lk 14:27
- C. The choice is ours, either sacrifice for God or be condemned to eternal punishment
- D. One cannot present his body to two causes Matt 6:24
 1. We might half serve two masters, but both masters will be dissatisfied
 2. The reason the Lord's work suffers is because too many members are dividing their lives with other masters. We are involved in too many other activities
 3. This is the reason I seldom if ever became involved in leadership roles of various organizations such as Cub Scouts, 4H, Band, etc.
 4. The Lord doesn't accept the old adage "A half a loaf is better than nothing" Rev 3:15,16; Lk 9:59,60; Mal 1:6-8; 3:8,9

CONCLUSION:

- A. Are we really sacrificing for the Lord?
- B. Are we presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice?
- C. The salvation which the Lord offers is for those who are willing to sacrifice for Him.