

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise

Hebrews 13:15

“Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.”

We have seen these last few weeks that the early Hebrew followers of Christ had ceased offering the animal sacrifices “for the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from our sin.” With the understanding that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law, then do we not bring any sacrifices to God in the New Covenant? No, there are appropriate sacrifices for the New Covenant Christian (13:13-16). In some cases you might be called upon to sacrifice your life (v. 13 “bearing His reproach”). Today we look at the sacrifice of praise.

I. Praise is called *a sacrifice*.

A sacrifice is somewhat costly. “I *sacrificed* to get you through medical school.” How is the praise of God costly? Shouldn’t praise of God be easy, natural, and something that simply “bubbles” from us? Not always. The praise of God can at times be sacrificial. “In **everything** give thanks” (I Thess. 5:18).

1. It is difficult to praise God when you can’t see any good from your circumstances.
2. It is difficult to praise God when those around you have little interest in God.
3. It is difficult to praise God when you have not been captivated by God’s majesty.

II. Praise is called a sacrifice *of the lips*.

The sacrifice of praise is more than just an attitude of gratitude. It is a spoken token of our thanks. There are occasions when it is appropriate to give spoken thanks to God: when one is praised; when one is blessed; when one is in need; when one is in plenty; when one is afraid; when one is secure. In fact, you might find it difficult to find a time or place when it is *inappropriate* to praise God out loud. The word “fruit” demands an emphasis on one’s entire life being captivated by God. Jesus said in Matthew 15:8, “These people honor me with their lips but their heart is far from me.” The “fruit” of lips is the natural outgrowth of the heart. Therefore, our priority is to stand in awe of our God:

1. by having a heart amazed by the grace of God,
2. by having a mind gripped by the truth of God,
3. by having a sense of right and wrong permeated by the justice of God,
4. by having a faith resting in the power of God,
5. by having an imagination guided by the beauty of God,
6. by having a life steadied by the sovereignty of God, and
7. by having a hope filled with the glory of God.

III. Praise is called a sacrifice of the lips giving thanks *to His name*.

“Name” means *character and reputation* in Scripture as well as *a literal written and spoken name*. This Hebrew word is “shem” and is translated into English as “name” throughout the Old Testament. In Strong’s # 8034 you find “**Shem**”—*a primitive word; an appellation, AS A MARK or memorial of individuality; by implication honor, authority, character. God’s name is His character and His mark.*

“And God said to Moses, ‘You shall say to the children of Israel, “The LORD, God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.” This is my name forever, and this my memorial to all generations’” (Ex. 3:15).

Man has set up many memorials for himself such as “The Unknown Soldier” or “The Vietnam Wall” for instance. God has designed your lips to be the memorial for His name to the world around you.