

Bible Study: Elevating our sacrifice through our praise

Scripture: Hebrews 13.15

The Big Idea: If the church is going to be successful it must be populated with serving believers who make sacrifices

Elevating our sacrifice through our praise

In the life of the church, if it is going to be successful

1. It must be populated with serving believers.
2. Those serving believers must make sacrifices.

When you personalize this study, your conclusion and outtake is that sacrifices must be made to achieve greatness. Elevating your sacrifice will elevate your success.

WHAT IS A SACRIFICE?

Sacrifice is the destruction or the surrendering of something for the sake of something else. When you make a sacrifice loss is involved. It also consists of the act of giving up.

For something to be considered a sacrifice:

1. It must be of value to the one sacrificing
2. It must be done for the sake of something or someone other than themselves.

Hebrews focuses on the role of God's Son, Jesus, as the ultimate expression of God's work among humanity. Jesus' priestly service, now complete, brings about the purification of sins (**Heb**

1:3), and He sits with honor and authority at God's right hand. In our text, the writer gives instructions to a weary congregation, and he tells them to offer up the sacrifice of praise.

WHY SACRIFICE?

This sacrifice that is offered is praise. The writer identifies that it is offered up through Jesus (v15).

For Christians, Jesus is the once-and-for-all sacrifice, the Lamb of God (John 1:29, 36; 3.16) who fulfills the Old Testament's sacrificial requirements. Christ's sacrifice made Him:

The propitiation for our sins (1 John 2.2, 4.10; Heb. 2.17).

The final atonement for our sins (Heb. 10.12, 7.27).

The sacrifice to God (Heb 7:27; 9:26).

The fulfillment of the Passover offering (1 Cor 5:7).

The Christian's access to God (John 14.6).

Because He made a sacrifice the believer should make sacrifices for Him as well. The offerant is Christians. The offering is praise. The praise is confessional. The purpose is to bring others into a relationship and worship God.

HOW TO SACRIFICE?

The writer identifies this sacrifice of praise is to be done continually. This speaks of a behavioral responsibility that is repeated frequently, regularly again and again without interruption. The b' clause of verse 15 says, "*the fruit of lips that*

openly profess his name.” It is the opening of the serving believer’s mouth. It is a contrast and combination of the spiritual and practical. Here the writer implores to not be silent. If the blessing is visible the praise should be vocal (**Ps. 95.1-7, Ps. 117.1-2, Ps. 107.1-3, Ps. 150**).