

# Costly Worship

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Leviticus 1:1-17

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*"Now the Lord called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them..." (Leviticus 1:1-2a)*

## **Main Idea: the Lord Addresses his People About Worship and at the Heart of Old Testament Worship Is Sacrifice**

*"...When any one of you brings an offering to the Lord" (v. 2)*

*"...you shall bring your offering of the livestock—of the herd and of the flock." (v. 2)*

### **1.) The Structure of This Passage**

#### **A.) A Conditional Clause**

*"If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd..." (v. 3)*

#### **B.) A Directive or Imperative**

*"...let him offer a male without blemish..." (v. 3)*

*Read Leviticus 1:10*

*Read Leviticus 1:14*

#### **C.) A Burnt Offering, An Offering Made by Fire, A Sweet Aroma to the Lord**

### **2.) The Teaching of This Passage**

#### **A.) The Ritual God Commands**

*"Using a little imagination every reader of the OT soon realizes that these ancient sacrifices were very moving occasions. They make*

*modern church services seem tame and dull by comparison. The ancient worshipper did not just listen to the minister and sing a few hymns. He was actively involved in the worship. He had to choose an unblemished animal from his own flock, bring it to the sanctuary, kill it and dismember it with his own hands, then watch it go up in smoke before his very eyes. He was convinced that something very significant was achieved through these acts and knew that his relationship with God was profoundly affected by this sacrifice." —Gordon J. Wenham*

#### **B.) The Worshippers God Invites**

*"All were invited to draw near and present an offering to God irrespective of their gender, or...their economic status and social standing. The majestic God of the exodus and of Sinai coveted the close friendship of his people." —Derek Tidball*

*Psalm 51:16-17*

#### **C.) The Sacrifice God Accepts**

*"...nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing." (2 Samuel 24:24)*

*"Worship that costs nothing means nothing. Worship that is cheap leads to a cheap, superficial and diminished experience of the living God." —Derek Tidball*

#### **D.) The Need God Meets**

*"the burnt offering was a blood sacrifice akin to the other atonement sacrifices, and so reminds us, as Kellogg suggests, 'of the necessity of atonement, not so much for what we fail to do, as for what we are', that is, sinners by nature and disposition as well as by practice." — Derek Tidball*

#### **E.) The Devotion God Receives**

*"the thrust of the sacrifice lay in a desire to cause God pleasure by offering him a gift out of fully devoted and thankful hearts. Given this,*

*it is obvious that it was impossible to offer an acceptable sacrifice merely by performing the outward rite. The inner disposition of the worshipper was just as important. Unless the sacrifice expressed 'a broken spirit . . . a broken and contrite heart' (Ps. 51:17), it would cause God pain rather than pleasure" —Derek Tidball*

*"as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma" Ephesians 5:2*

*"...as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (1 Pet 1:19)*

*"**10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...**14** For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." (Hebrews 10:10, 14)*

*"The essential meaning of this sacrifice is explicitly and powerfully captured in the ritual itself. The distinguishing feature of this sacrifice, as opposed to others, was that the whole of it was burnt up on the altar. It speaks of total surrender, entire consecration and complete dedication to God. None of it is held back. It is offered without reserve. No less than an unqualified and unreserved giving of oneself, as represented by the substituted victim, was – or is – an adequate response to the saving grace and covenant love of God." —Derek Tidball*