

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

## SACRIFICES AND REWARDS

Ever since man sinned, God has been exacting a sacrifice from man. These sacrifices have been required as a penalty for sin and an offering unto God. Man has come to look for a reward for his sacrifices. Oftentimes the sacrifices are made with the hope of reward. The sacrifice loses its sting in the anticipation of a reward. A patient goes to the operating table and willingly sacrifices a limb or an organ in order to be relieved of pain and prolong his life. The hope of reward is present as the sacrifice is made. One wonders if there had been any sacrifice if there had been no sin. One also wonders if there had been any reward if there had been no sacrifice.

**The First Sacrifices:** When Adam and Eve sinned, it cost them the Garden of Eden. They were separated from the tree of life, gave up their state of innocence, and became guilty before God. Little reward came to them. They gained a knowledge of sin. Their "eyes" were opened and they were **"as God, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:5 ASV). "And Jehovah God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil" (Gen. 3:22 ASV).** This knowledge was the reward that followed that great sacrifice. The reward was not commensurate with the sacrifice that was made.

The first sacrifice as made by man in worship to God is recorded in **Genesis 4**. Cain and Abel stood at the first altar that we read about in the Bible and made their respective offerings. Cain sacrificed **"of the fruit of the ground,"** and Abel **"brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof" (Gen. 4:4-5).** Cain pleased himself in his sacrifice, but Abel pleased God, for he made his offering by faith. **"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain" (Heb. 11:4).** The reward that Cain received was his banishment and punishment. Abel's reward was the blessings of Jehovah. Both these worshippers received their just recompense of reward.

**Animal Sacrifices:** In God's dealing with man, He has called upon man to make sacrifices and He has instructed man as to the kind of offerings which He will receive. Man knew the kind of sacrifice that would bring to him a blessing. He also knew the kind that would bring condemnation.

God has required certain animals to be offered to Him as sacrifices. The blood of these animals represents the life. When they were offered according to the will of God, the worshipper was blessed. When they were offered according to the wisdom of man, man was condemned. Only "clean animals" were permitted to be sacrificed. The hope, reward, and fear of punishment were impressed upon the children of Israel by means of their sacrifices. Certain portions of the sacrifice were placed upon the altar and burned. Other portions of some sacrifices could be eaten by the worshipper.

The rewards of these sacrifices encouraged obedience upon the part of man. The animal sacrifices were slain and offered unto Jehovah. In a sense, the animal took the place of the worshipper. Hands were laid upon the head of the animal and it was appointed as a substitute for the worshipper. Man is a sinful being and is worthy of death because of his sin. But in His goodness and mercy, God accepted a substitute and permitted man to sacrifice an animal instead of dying himself. Here we see not only the sacrifice made by man, but we see the goodness and mercy of God in permitting man to offer a substitute for his own life. In this way, God prepared the mind of man for the coming of Christ. — *Continued on page 3*

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: ED KELLEHER

PM: ED KELLEHER

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;  
in honor preferring one another." - Romans 12:10

**KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013**

JOIN US IN  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
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**EVANGELIST**

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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.*
- **Margaret Herring** has been able to make it out to the assembly several times now, though plagued with a variety of ills. Keep her in your prayers.
- Prayers continue to be requested for **Caleb Sams** 19, son of **Kirk Sams** preacher at the Kannapolis NC church of Christ. Caleb is fighting bone cancer that has metastasized. He's already lost a leg to it. He's going through a severe regimen of chemotherapy that is very trying. Pray for him and the family, that God will be merciful
- **Connie Richbourg** is getting along and slowly improving as she suffers through the physical therapy several times a week after knee replacement surgery.
- Neither **Anna Porter** or **Judy Walker** were able to get out last Sunday much as we all know they wanted to be with us. Keep them in your prayers.
- Also continue to remember **Stephanie Rigney** who is awaiting the results of a PET scan taken last Saturday.
- Please keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks and gratitude to those who watch, and work and pray for the church here. To those faithful in visiting and attendance, encouraging others by talking with them. To those quietly doing the many jobs necessary to keep the congregation functioning.

**"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." - 2 Timothy 1:7**

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **Please sign up to clean the building some time.**
- **BULLETINS BY EMAIL** sent each Friday. To subscribe, send email address to Ed.
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors!** Brother **Gamble** posts a list each week of visitors and those of our number who need encouragement.

**“With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:” - Ephesians 6:7**

## **“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15**

- **Katrina Jackson** (Trevia Parks granddaughter) and **Jody Anderson** announce their engagement to be wed. No date set as yet. **Jody** has been attending the assembly with Katrina and paying keen attention to the sermons. Remember them both in your prayers.

### **KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013**

**“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;**

**but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” - Matthew 7:21**

## **SACRIFICES AND REWARDS—Continued from page 1**

**Christ As A Sacrifice:** In the wisdom of God, the idea of a sacrifice has been impressed upon man. The need of a sacrifice or substitute for sinful man is made clear throughout the Bible. Christ came on a mission of love to offer Himself a sacrifice for the sins of the world. **"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many"** (Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:15). **"For there is one God, one mediator also between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all"** (1 Tim. 2:5-6). Hence Jesus has become the propitiation for the sins of the world. **"He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world"** (1 John 2:2).

Christ has become the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world; He has become the great sin offering for the world. The rewards of His sacrifices cannot be estimated. The redemption of the human family, the salvation of souls, has become a measure of the reward to those who will accept Him. The condemnation of the unbeliever becomes the reward of those who reject Him.

As we read the Bible, we see the blood of sacrifices running from the first altar to the shed blood of Christ on Calvary. The red blood of sacrifice runs through the whole fabric of God's dealings with man. We rejoice in the atoning blood of our Lord. The rich rewards are received by the faithful in heaven. Many blessings cluster around the faithful life in the service of God here and the heavenly home awaits them hereafter. The sacrifices and rewards of Christ become the measure of the blessings of man.

**The Sacrifice Of Christians:** **"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service"** (Rom. 12:1 ASV). In order to receive the many rich rewards that come from the sacrifices of Christ, we must make sacrifices ourselves. The sweetest joys that we may have as heirs of the eternal kingdom will be experienced in our suffering and sacrificing for our Saviour. **"Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you"** (Matt. 5:11-12 ASV).

One cannot live for Christ without suffering for Him. We must die to sin, be buried with Him in baptism, in order to be raised with Him to the reward of a new life. **"We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein? Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: and like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection; knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away, that we should no longer be in bondage to sin; for he that hath died is justified from sin"** (Rom. 6:2-7 ASV). Throughout the above quotation we have a vivid picture of the sacrifices that Christians must make and the rewards which follow those sacrifices.

**Sacrifices For Others:** The review of sacrifices is not complete without a brief consideration of vicarious suffering. In every form of nature we have examples of sacrificing for another. The old plant dies in order to produce another seed. The parent animals sacrifice and die for the reproduction of their young. Our mothers step down into the very jaws of death that we may be born, and they suffer, serve, and sacrifice that children may be reared.

The Son of God died that we might live. All present life exists because of the death of some other life. It seems to be a law of our being to suffer and sacrifice for others. We become more like Christ when we sacrifice for others. **"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church"** (Col. 1:24 ASV).

Jesus rejoiced in suffering and dying for others. We are to run with patience the race that is set before us, **"looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God"** (Heb. 12:2).-

**- Henry Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Gospel Preacher**

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