

Next Sunday, Burn the Offering!

Here is yet another aspect of old covenant, sacrificial law, that is often lived out as a law--except, we are not actually following what the Law the Bible says!

The fact is, that in the old covenant--"offering" was the payment that God asked Israel for--**IN ORDER TO HAVE THEIR SIN FORGIVEN....**

For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul. (Leviticus 17:11)

Another fact, is that when you "offered" something to God--you destroyed it.

There was "blood on the altar" because they had killed an animal. They were not using it for themselves, they were truly "offering" it to God.

Offerings in the Bible were "burnt". Again, they were being destroyed.

Offerings of grain, were made into shewbread, and the bread was broken.

Offerings were heaved into the air--scattered--destroyed.

Offerings of oil were burnt--used up--destroyed.

Offerings of wine were poured out--destroyed.

Why?

Because in order for sin to be forgiven--**SOMETHING HAS TO DIE. SOMETHING HAS TO BE DESTROYED.**

In the old covenant, these offerings only worked because they were, in fact a prophesy of what God would do to His own Son.

God the Father destroyed His own Son, so that the sin of the world could be forgiven.

You see, the Christian tradition of making "tithes and offerings" is Biblically inaccurate. It's based on a very selective way of looking at things. It's not really what the laws of God are speaking of in the Bible--and yet--isn't it followed, over and over and over again--as if it were a "law"?

Now, yes, a certain part of the tithe/offering was given to the Levitical priests to live on (this is the **BIG THING** that is the basis of "pastoral authority"). But again, we take one concept out of the context of Biblical law and run rampant with it! The Biblical laws gave strict instructions to the priests on what they had to do (they had a full time job, killing animals, making shewbread, heaving grain, bring oil and incense--etc. etc. etc.) For example, the laws stated that the Levites could not own land in Israel. Do we apply that law to the pastors of our churches? If they are the "typological Levitical priest" then why should we not apply these laws for the priests to them?

Let's make a small list of the Biblical inaccuracies of "tithes/offerings"

BIBLE	CHURCH TRADITION
1. only specific herd animals and crops offered	money
2. only done in the Temple in Jerusalem	done in any church building
3. only given to the high priest	pastor gets it all
4. set of rules about what must be done with the preserved part of the offering (for example the priest could not own land in Israel)	no rules--pastor decides--uses it all
5. offering destroyed	offering spent
6. tithe of the increase of the herds (baby animals)	tithe of "your increase" meaning all income

The Biblical inaccuracies of "tithe/offering" are many, but the traditional authoritarian format of church meeting allows no questions to be asked. And in order to be "in authority" within the church meeting, one must be in agreement with the pre-existing concepts of authority and function.

It is a cycle that has gone on in the Christian church for hundreds of years, should it continue?

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