

TITLE AND NUMBER: 252 A sacrifice of praise

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Hebrews 13:15-21



Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honourably in every way. I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

LOOKING FURTHER: Psalm 119:175; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 1:12

What does the Bible passage tell us?

You may be familiar with the complicated practice of animal sacrifice in the Old Testament. This was to enable the Israelites to receive forgiveness for their sin when the priest who had access into the presence of God interceded on their behalf. When Jesus came, He was the sacrifice, once and for all. He shed His blood on the cross, rose again and made a new covenant (promise/contract) with us, enabling us to have forgiveness, peace with God and eternal life. This is a huge amount for us to praise God for.

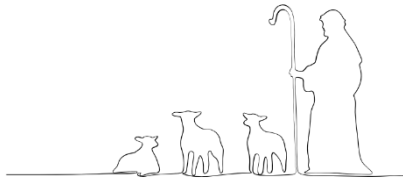
We see in verses 15-16 that the praise and worship which we bring to God through Jesus is our 'sacrifice' of praise. This pleases God as we thank Him for all that He has done for us. There are also practical ways in which we show our gratitude to God: doing good, sharing what we have with others and demonstrating the love of Jesus by our attitude and behaviour towards everyone. Most importantly, we are to share the Gospel and our faith with others, too. It is very important that we respect our leaders. We all like encouragement and our chaplaincy teams need it as much as we do.

There are many occasions where we are tempted to try and do things in our own way. However, it is important that we rely totally on what Jesus has done for us. As Christians, we are encouraged to set an example to others as we rely on Jesus to lead us by His Spirit. We must endeavour to keep a clear conscience, having said sorry for our mistakes, and try to live honourably. May we do what is pleasing to God, sacrificing our wills and following His plans for us.

Reflection

- What things are you praising God for today?
- How might you encourage your Chaplain this week?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you as you look to share your faith with those around you.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for?
It's okay to talk to God about this.

