

Sermon #21 — *Discovering Christ in Leviticus*

Title: **“THE LAW OF CONSECRATIONS”**

Text: Leviticus 7:11-38

Subject: *Consecration*

Date: Tuesday Evening — October 9, 2018

Readings: *Lindsay Campbell and David Burge*

Introduction:

My subject is consecration, consecration to God. The root of steadfastness is consecration to God; but the world has not yet seen what God might do with a man utterly consecrated to him. Oh, that God would give me the grace to make me such a man! Oh, that God might give us grace, day by day, to consecrate ourselves to him! Consecration is not a word we hear or use very often; but it is used frequently in Holy Scripture. In fact, entire chapters are devoted to the subject of consecration. In my text (Leviticus 7:11-38) the Lord God gives us what he calls “*the law of the consecrations.*” So, if you will open your Bible to the Gospel of Leviticus, we will hear what the Lord God has to say to us about — **“THE LAW OF CONSECRATIONS.”** — That is the title of my message — **“THE LAW OF CONSECRATIONS”** Our text will be Leviticus 7:11-38.

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Proposition: Consecration is neither more nor less than the giving of ourselves to God, the dedication and devotion of our lives to our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, how I pray that God will give each of us grace to consecrate ourselves to him. This consecration to God by faith in Christ is what was typified in all the Old Testament sacrifices of consecration described in Leviticus 1-7. My text is Leviticus 7:11-38. We will begin by reading verses 37-38. Then we will look at the specific instructions given in verses 11-38 about the worship of our God.

(Leviticus 7:37-38) “This *is* the law of the burnt offering, of the meat offering, and of the sin offering, and of the trespass offering, and of the consecrations¹, and of the sacrifice of the peace

¹ The word “*consecrations*” might at first appear to be out of place here; but it is not. It is inserted here for two obvious reasons: (1.) The Lord God was just about to give instructions about the

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offerings; (38) Which the LORD commanded Moses in mount Sinai, in the day that he commanded the children of Israel to offer their oblations unto the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai.”

The instruction given in this portion of Leviticus 7 is an inspired recapitulation of the instructions given in chapter 3 concerning the sacrifice of the peace offering. However, there are some very important additions given here. Let me direct your attention to these additional words of instruction. Then, I will show you how our Lord Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled all these typical sacrifices.

PEACE OFFERINGS

1st — **The peace offerings were sacrifices made by redeemed sinners as redeemed sinners, as those reconciled to God** (v. 11).

consecrations of the priests. And (2.) all acts of public worship are acts of public consecration to God.

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(Leviticus 7:11) “And this *is* the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he shall offer unto the LORD.”

The Peace Offerings were offerings brought to the Lord God by his people as expressions of praise, gratitude, and thanksgiving for God’s great goodness in deliverance.

- Deliverance from Captivity
- Deliverance from Sickness
- Deliverance from Great Trouble
- Deliverance from Destruction

The soul, overflowing with gratitude and praise freely, voluntarily brought a sacrifice to the Lord, by which he declared both his gratitude and his personal consecration to God.

(Psalms 119:108) “Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments.”

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They were not the sacrifices of men and women seeking peace with God, but the sacrifices of men and women who had obtained peace. This is the position we are in in Christ. — *“He is our peace.”*

- **The Lord God reconciled us to himself judicially when he sacrificed his darling Son for us at Calvary** (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

(2 Corinthians 5:17-21) “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (18) And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (20) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ’s stead,

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be ye reconciled to God. (21) For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

- **We have been reconciled to God by the Holy Spirit’s gracious operations in conversion.**

Now, as reconciled sinners, we gladly, voluntarily give ourselves to our God.

(Hebrews 13:10-15) “We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. (11) For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. (12) Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. (13) Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. (14) For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. (15) By him therefore let us offer the

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sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.”

Illustration: “*Chief give himself to Jesus.*”

LEAVENED BREAD

2nd — **The reconciled sinner could not bring his peace offering to the Lord, except he bring with it his leavened bread** (vv. 12-14).

(Leviticus 7:12-14) “If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried. — (13) Besides the cakes, he shall offer *for* his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings. — (14) And of it he shall offer one out of the whole oblation *for* an heave offering unto

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the LORD, *and* it shall be the priest’s that sprinkleth the blood of the peace offerings.”

He brought his unleavened cakes, anointed with oil. These unleavened cakes pointed to Christ in his spotless, holy purity. But why was the worshipper required to “*leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings*” (v. 13)? — The answer is obvious. — **All who come to God in a state of reconciliation, come to him in a state of humility, confessing their sin.** While we rejoice in the knowledge and assurance of sin’s complete forgiveness by the sacrifice of Christ, we are keenly aware of our personal sinfulness and inward corruptions (1 John 1:8-10; Isaiah 64:6).

(Isaiah 64:6) “But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

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(1 John 1:8-10) “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

MUST BE EATEN

3rd — **The offering had to be eaten in the holy place by the priests, and eaten on the same day it was offered** (vv. 15-18).

(Leviticus 7:15-18) “And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day that it is offered; he shall not leave any of it until the morning. — (16) But if the sacrifice of his offering *be* a vow, or a voluntary offering, it shall be eaten the same day that he offereth his sacrifice: and on the morrow also the remainder of it shall be eaten:

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— (17) But the remainder of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day shall be burnt with fire.

— (18) And if *any* of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings be eaten at all on the third day, it shall not be accepted, neither shall it be imputed unto him that offereth it: it shall be an abomination, and the soul that eateth of it shall bear his iniquity.”

There are many very practical things to be observed from the instructions given in these verses.

- **Those who preach the gospel are to live by the gospel** (1 Corinthians 9:13-14).

(1 Corinthians 9:13-14) “Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live *of the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? (14) Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.”

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- **Observe how quickly the sacrifice must be eaten.** So our Lord Jesus Christ, our Sacrifice, is to be received by faith with urgency (Hebrews 3:13-14).

(Hebrews 3:13-14) “But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. (14) For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.”

- **When the poor soul saw God’s priests immediately eating his sacrifice, he was assured, immediately assured, of the acceptance of his sacrifice by the Lord.** — No guess work here. He went home rejoicing in divine approval!
- **Again, the Lord took great care that no part of the sacrifice see corruption.** — Anything left over until the third day was to be burned with fire. Why? The Lord Jesus Christ, our great Surety,

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after being offered as the Sacrifice for our sins, must rise from the dead on the third day. His body could not see corruption.

(Psalms 16:9-11) “Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. (10) For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. (11) Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.”

ONLY THE CLEAN

4th — **Only one who was ceremonially clean could come before the Lord with a peace offering** (vv. 19-21).

(Leviticus 7:19-21) “And the flesh that toucheth any unclean *thing* shall not be eaten; it shall be burnt with fire: and as for the flesh, all that be clean shall eat thereof. — (20) But the soul that

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eateth *of* the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, that *pertain* unto the LORD, having his uncleanness upon him, even that soul shall be cut off from his people. — (21) Moreover the soul that shall touch any unclean *thing*, *as* the uncleanness of man, or *any* unclean beast, or any abominable unclean *thing*, and eat of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which *pertain* unto the LORD, even that soul shall be cut off from his people.”

Our works, our sacrifices, our services, be they ever so great and costly will never be accepted of God until we are ourselves washed, and justified, and sanctified by Christ (1 Peter 2:5).

(1 Peter 2:5) “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

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(Philippians 4:18) “But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.”

No ceremony, no religious service, no religious activity (Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, Church Membership, Church Attendance, Bible Reading, Prayer, etc.) can make us clean before God (Leviticus 19:8; Haggai 2:12)². It is the conscience that must be purged from dead works to serve the true and living God (Hebrews 9:14; 1 Corinthians 11:29).

(Hebrews 9:14) “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit

² (Leviticus 19:8) “Therefore *everyone* that eateth it shall bear his iniquity, because he hath profaned the hallowed thing of the LORD: and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.”

(Haggai 2:12) “If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No.”

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offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

(1 Corinthians 11:29) “For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”

PERSONAL FAITH

5th — **The sacrifice of the peace offering had to be brought by the worshipper personally, with his own hands** (vv. 22-36).

(Leviticus 7:22-36) “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, — (23) Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Ye shall eat no manner of fat, of ox, or of sheep, or of goat. — (24) And the fat of the beast that dieth of itself, and the fat of that which is torn with beasts, may be used in any other use: but ye shall in no wise eat of it. —

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(25) For whosoever eateth the fat of the beast, of which men offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, even the soul that eateth *it* shall be cut off from his people. — (26) Moreover ye shall eat no manner of blood, *whether it be* of fowl or of beast, in any of your dwellings. (27) Whatsoever soul *it be* that eateth any manner of blood, even that soul shall be cut off from his people. — (28) And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, (29) Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, He that offereth the sacrifice of his peace offerings unto the LORD shall bring his oblation unto the LORD of the sacrifice of his peace offerings. — (30) **His own hands shall bring the offerings** of the LORD made by fire, the fat with the breast, it shall he bring, that the breast may be waved *for* a wave offering before the LORD. — (31) And the priest shall burn the fat upon the altar: but the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons'. — (32) And the right shoulder shall ye give unto the priest *for* an heave offering of the sacrifices of your peace

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offerings. — (33) He among the sons of Aaron, that offereth the blood of the peace offerings, and the fat, shall have the right shoulder for *his* part. — (34) For the wave breast and the heave shoulder have I taken of the children of Israel from off the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and have given them unto Aaron the priest and unto his sons by a statute forever from among the children of Israel. — (35) This *is the portion* of the anointing of Aaron, and of the anointing of his sons, out of the offerings of the LORD made by fire, in the day *when* he presented them to minister unto the LORD in the priest’s office; — (36) Which the LORD commanded to be given them of the children of Israel, in the day that he anointed them, *by* a statute forever throughout their generations.”

The prohibition here given forbidding the eating of fat and blood is the same law given Leviticus 3:16-17. As it referred to all the ceremonial sacrifices the blood was considered sacred because of its

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reference to the sin-atonement blood of our Lord Jesus Christ (Genesis 9:4; Deuteronomy 12:16; Leviticus 17:11).

(Genesis 9:4) “But flesh with the life thereof, *which is* the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.”

(Deuteronomy 12:16) “Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water.”

(Leviticus 17:11) “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.”

Still, there is more to be learned from this prohibition. — The fat and the blood belonged to God. There was a spiritual significance to this command.

- We enjoy peace with God by giving him the best, represented by the fat.

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- And we belong to God by giving him our lives, represented by the blood.

In all things pertaining to the worship of God, personal faith is required. We must trust Christ ourselves. We must come to him ourselves. We must walk with him ourselves. Everyone who brought the peace-offering brought it with his own hands. Why? Because salvation is a personal thing. Faith in Christ is a personal thing (Job 19:25-26; Galatians 2:20).

(Job 19:25-27) “I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: (26) And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.”

(Galatians 2:20) “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I

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live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

FULFILLED BY CHRIST

Now, look at the last two verses of Leviticus 7. Here the Holy Spirit lumps all these sacrifices together, as if to declare that all these great sacrifices of divine worship and all the instructions concerning them are for one great purpose.

6th — **The sacrifices were all given to point sinners to Christ. They were all typical of Christ. And all have been fulfilled by Christ** (vv. 37-38).

(Leviticus 7:37-38) “This *is* the law of the burnt offering, of the meat offering, and of the sin offering, and of the trespass offering, and of the consecrations, and of the sacrifice of the peace offerings; — (38) Which the LORD commanded Moses in mount Sinai, in the day that he commanded the children of Israel to offer their

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oblations unto the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai.”

(Hebrews 10:10-14) “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. (11) And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (12) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; (13) From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. (14) For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.”

- **Christ is our true Burnt Offering** (Leviticus 1).

(Ephesians 4:32) “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

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(Ephesians 5:1-2) “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; (2) And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”

- **The Lord Jesus Christ is our true Meat Offering, our Offering of Firstfruits** (Leviticus 2).

(1 Corinthians 15:19-23) “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. (20) But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. (21) For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (23) But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”

- **Christ is our true Peace Offering** (Leviticus 3).

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(Romans 4:25) “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

(Romans 5:1-11) “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (3) And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; (4) And patience, experience; and experience, hope: (5) And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (6) For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. (8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, being now justified by his

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blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (11) And not only *so*, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”

- **The Lord Jesus is our one and only Sin Offering** (Leviticus 4).

(2 Corinthians 5:14-21) “The love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: (15) And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. (16) Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more. (17) Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away;

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behold, all things are become new. (18) And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (20) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. (21) For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

(Galatians 3:13-14) “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* everyone that hangeth on a tree: (14) That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

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- **The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God himself, is our only and our true Trespass Offering** (Leviticus 5).

(Isaiah 53:1-12) “Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? (2) For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him. (3) He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (4) Surely, he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (5) But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD

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hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (7) He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. (8) He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. (9) And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth. (10) Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. (11) He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. (12) Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the

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strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Sacrifice, in whom alone sinners have access to and acceptance with the holy Lord God. He is the Burnt-offering, the Meat-offering, the Peace-offering, the Sin-offering, and the Trespass-offering for all his people. If we would come to God, we must come to God by him. Blessed be his name, we can come to God by him.

APPLICATION

That is **THE LAW OF CONSECRATIONS**. Thank God for the law of consecrations by which our Lord Jesus Christ and God’s salvation in, by, and with him are portrayed so vividly!

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How can I persuade you now to come to God, to consecrate yourself to God in Christ Jesus? Christ is the one great Sacrifice who can...

- Atone for sin.
- Give acceptance with God.
- Bring peace to your soul forever!

Has the Son of God done this for you? Has he done this for me? — The most reasonable return we can make is giving ourselves to him. He died for us that we should not henceforth live unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again (2 Corinthians 5:15).

(Romans 12:1-2) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

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**“Here, Lord, I give myself to Thee,
`Tis all that I can do.”**

- This Heart!
- These Eyes!
- These Ears!
- These Hands!
- These Feet!
- This Mind!
- All that I Am!
- All that I Have!

Spirit of God, give us grace to keep our eyes steadily looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith! As we behold our Redeemer typified in this chapter of Inspiration, we give you thanks for the pictures we have of him here. As the Lord Jesus Christ was and is the minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, may our hearts rejoice and participate with him in all the sweet things here represented. May it be our portion, blessed Savior, to

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feed upon you, to live unto you, and to rejoice in you! Let us never presume to bring anything of our own to mingle with the all-sufficient sacrifice of God our Savior. Oh, may we ever be led by God the Holy Ghost in the new and living way of Christ’s precious blood and make mention of his righteousness, even of his only!

Dear Lamb of God, how blessed is it to see you as our only Sacrifice, our only Priest, and our only Altar! You have made all your people kings and priests unto God and the Father. As you are our great Peace-offering and our glorious Paschal Lamb, we feed on you. By you, our Sacrifice, we live. By you we are nourished, sustained, and made partakers of everlasting life. Precious Lord Jesus, give us so to eat of your flesh and drink of your blood that we may have eternal life abiding in us!

Amen.