

ROMANS 43 – YOUR BODY A LIVING SACRIFICE

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ROMANS 12:1-2

PROLOGUE: ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED

- THIS VERSE IS FREQUENTLY USED TO JUSTIFY UNIVERSALISM; FALSE DOCTRINE THAT GOD WILL SAVE EVERYONE EVENTUALLY
 - THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF HYPERLITERALISM – “ALL OF ISRAEL” TAKEN TO MEAN THAT ALL JEWS, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, WILL BE SAVED
 - THIS TECHNIQUE REQUIRES THAT ALL OTHER SCRIPTURE ON THE ISSUE BE IGNORED; THIS SETS UP THE SITUATION FOR BIBLICAL CONTRADICTIONS AND REJECTION OF THE SCRIPTURES
 - PAUL HAS MADE CLEAR PREVIOUSLY THAT ALL ISRAEL REFERS ONLY TO SPIRITUAL ISRAEL, OR JEWS, THOSE WHOM GOD HAS PREDESTINED FOR SALVATION (RD 9:6-8; 11:5-7; EP 1:3-10)

PROLOGUE: PLAIN TEACHING—GREATEST CONFUSION

- PAUL CLEARLY STATES ONE OF THE FOUNDATIONAL AXIOMS OF GOD: HIS XARISMA AND CALLING ARE IRREVOCABLE!
 - XARISMA – HOLY SPIRIT’S INFLUENCE BOTH PRE AND POST NEW COVENANT ARE WITHOUT ERROR
 - WHEN GOD CALLED THE HEBREWS TO BE HIS PEOPLE IT WAS ALREADY HIS PLAN THAT THEIR SIN WOULD BE PART OF HIS OVERALL PLAN TO SAVE A PEOPLE OUT OF EVERY CULTURE OR NATION
 - THEIR SINFULNESS WAS A PART OF THAT PLAN; TO SAY THAT GOD REJECTED THE JEWS FOR THEIR SIN IS TO SAY THAT GOD IS NOT OMNISCIENT, I.E., THAT HE IS NOT GOD!
 - CHRISTIANS HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES NO BETTER AND OFTEN WORSE ON A GRANDER SCALE HISTORICALLY MEANING THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARING TO REPLACE US ALSO

PROLOGUE: PAUL TIES HIS CLOSING ARGUMENT TO HIS OPENING STATEMENT

- PAUL STARTED HIS LOGICAL ARGUMENT SHOWING BOTH JEW AND GENTILE WERE EQUAL
 - BOTH WERE EQUALLY GUILTY OF SIN BEFORE GOD: JEW BY THE LAW WHICH CONDEMNED THEM; GENTILES WITHOUT THE LAW BY THEIR OWN CONSCIENCE WHICH PRODUCED GUILT VIA SINFUL ACTIONS
 - BOTH WERE EQUALLY SAVED BY THE GRACE OF CHRIST WHOSE SACRIFICE AS SIN, FOR SIN, STRETCHED BACKWARD AND FORWARD IN TIME TO COVER ALL WHOM GOD HAS CALLED
 - BOTH WERE EQUALLY CONDEMNED AND EQUALLY GIVEN MERCY SO THAT ALL CREDIT GOES TO THE SOVEREIGN GOD AND SON AND NONE TO FLESHLY MANKIND EVER
 - WITHOUT GOD NONE DESERVE LIFE PAST THIS PHYSICAL TRANSITORY EXISTENCE OF FLESHLY LIFE

PAUL LINKS BACK TO HIS OPENING

- PAUL MASTERFULLY BEGINS THIS PRACTICAL SECTION WITH HIS OPENING STATEMENT TO THE ROMANS WHICH IS CLEAR IN THE GREEK
 - PAUL BEGAN ROMANS STATING HE SERVES GOD WITH HIS SPIRIT TO BRING THE GOSPEL (RD 1:4)
 - SERVE (ΛΑΤΡΕΥΩ, LATREUC) – MEANS TO SERVE AS RECOMPENCE FOR WHAT ONE HAS RECEIVED
 - CHRIST DIED FOR US WHILE WE WERE STILL WEAK, SINNERS; THUS, WE OWE HIM (RD 5:6-11)
 - UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE: WORKS – GOD IS OBLIGATED TO SAVE BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN BOUGHT – THIS IDEA WAS DEBUNKED BY ABRAHAM'S EXAMPLE AND IN JOB (RD 4:1-11)
 - GRACE – GOD GIVES EVERYTHING VIA ONE'S NEW COVENANT NATURE, EMULATING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE, WE GIVE SERVICE BACK TO THE FATHER VIA INDWELLING SPIRIT (1CO 13:20-28)

JOB OUR EXAMPLE: BEGAN IN WORKS {RELIGION} BUT ENDS IN GRACE {SALVATION} TO SERVE GOD

- SINFUL MAN DEMANDS THAT GOD OWES HIM, AND HER, EVERYTHING WHILE HE, OR SHE, OWES GOD NOTHING; THIS CONCEPT WAS WRITTEN IN THE FIRST BOOK PENNED (JOB 35:7, 41:11)
 - ELIJU JUSTLY CONDEMNED JOB AS A SINFUL MAN AND ASKS HIM WHAT HE, JOB, HAS GIVEN GOD REQUIRING GOD TO RETURN THE GIFT; I.E., MAKING GOD BEHOLDEN TO JOB
 - THIS IS REPEATED BY GOD IN HIS DISCUSSION DIRECTLY WITH JOB
 - THIS WAS ALSO THE CHARGE SATAN ACCUSED GOD OF WITH JOB; I.E., JOB WAS RELIGIOUS BECAUSE GOD GAVE JOB POWER, PRESTIGE AND RICHES – BOOK OF JOB IS GOD REFUTING THIS CHARGE THUS ENDING WITH THE SALVATION OF JOB DESPITE HIS SUFFERINGS, STRIPPED OF POWER, PRESTIGE AND RICHES TO INCLUDE FAMILY, EXCEPT THE WIFE (ONE FLESH) (JOB 2:23, JOB 24:8, 42:1-6)

SERVICE BASED ON MERCY, NOT OBLIGATION

- PAUL STATES THAT AS CHRISTIANS MATURE, THEY REALIZE THE TRUTH OF GRACE AND WORKS; THEY SERVE GOD BECAUSE OF THE MERCIES GIVEN THEM – ETERNAL LIFE (RD 11:20-23)
- THUS, PAUL CALLS OUT TO ALL THE SAVED TO UNDERSTAND: THE LOST ARE WORKING FOR DEATH, SEEKING TO BUY LIFE, BUT CHRISTIANS ARE WORKING AFTER RECEIVING LIFE – ALL ARE WORKING
- PAUL SERVED IN HIS SPIRIT TO EXTEND THE GOSPEL DESPITE THE FICKLENESS OF THE FLESH TO SIN (RD 7:14-25, 1CO 9:27)
- THE FLESH IS CONTROLLED ONLY THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOT FOR WORLDLY ENJOYMENT BUT FOR SERVICE TO THE LORD; THUS, VIA THE SPIRIT, WE ARE TO DISCIPLINE OUR BODY (1CO 9:27, HE 13:6-11)
- SELF-CONTROL IS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT ALONE; MARK OF SALVATION (GA 5:22-24)

BODIES ARE OUR LIVING SACRIFICIAL SERVICE

- AGAIN PAUL HARKENS BACK TO HIS JEWISH ROOTS IN DISCUSSING PRESENTING OUR BODIES AS LIVING, NOT DEAD, SACRIFICES TO GOD; THUS, WE MUST ALSO LOOK AT THE JEWISH SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S MEANING CONCERNING OUR SERVICE
- SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM CENTERED ON GOD'S HOLINESS VERSUS MAN'S SINFULNESS AND CHRIST AS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE TWO (1TI 2:14-17)
- WITHOUT CHRIST'S SACRIFICE THERE COULD BE NO MERCY; PEOPLE WOULD CONTINUE IN SIN
- MERCY IS NOT GIVING PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT BUT GIVING PEOPLE WHAT THEY NEED BASED ON SOMEONE ELSE'S JUSTIFICATION; THIS ACKNOWLEDGES GOD'S MORAL LAW WHILE PROVIDING A BRIDGE FOR REDEMPTION – SINFUL MAN WOULD ERASE MORALITY, ELEVATING SIN

OVERVIEW OF JEWISH SACRIFICES

VOLUNTARY SWEET SAVOR OFFERINGS

- ASCENDING – CHRIST'S TOTAL SACRIFICE TO THE FATHER FOR SIN, VOLUNTARILY
- PEACE – PORTIONS PLACED ON ALTAR DENOTING INNER PURITY AND PORTIONS SHARED WITH THE BELIEVER; CHRIST AS BRIDGE BETWEEN FATHER AND BELIEVERS

REQUIRED SIN OFFERINGS

- SIN – CHRIST AS SIN FOR US; ASHES TAKEN OUTSIDE CAMP TO CLEAN AREA; ACCEPTED
- TRESPASS – SACRIFICES FOR SINS DEFILING GOD'S HOLINESS IN IGNORANCE AND THE INTENTIONAL SINS AGAINST OTHERS; THESE REQUIRED RESTITUTION THEN THE SACRIFICE

THESE REQUIRED WITH EVERY BLOOD SACRIFICE (MT 26)

GRAIN OFFERING

- OFFERED ONLY IN THE PROMISED LAND, MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (MT 15:1-3)
- FINELY GROUND, SIFTED GRAIN WITH SALT, OIL AND FRANKINCENSE; EACH BELIEVER (HE 2:14-18)
- REPRESENTED CHRIST'S BODY WITHOUT SIN WHICH HE VOLUNTARILY OFFERED (MT 26:26)

DRINK (POURED OUT) OFFERING

- OFFERED ONLY IN THE PROMISED LAND, MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (MT 15:1-3)
- EXPRESSED GOODNESS OF GOD AND THANKFULNESS FOR HIS MERCIES IN US (DR 1:12-18, RE 6:8-11)
- REPRESENTED CHRIST'S BLOOD SHED FOR THE NEW COVENANT (MT 26:27-28)

POURED OUT OFFERING – GOD'S GOODNESS

- THE WINE OR DRINK OFFERING, LITERALLY THE POURED-OUT OFFERING, IS A METAPHOR FOR SEVERAL IMPORTANT TRUTHS OF SCRIPTURE
 - GRAPES ARE A PICTURE OF BELIEVERS BASED ON THE VINE, CHRIST, REPRODUCING THE GOODNESS (MERCY) OF GOD (JO 15:1-5)
 - THE GRAPES, BELIEVERS, UNDERGO TESTING, CRUSHING AND THEN FERMENTATION, MATURATION REPRODUCING THE IMAGE OF CHRIST; I.E., GOD'S GOODNESS (COE 1:15-27)
 - THIS LIFE, WINE OFFERING, IS THEN POURED OUT INDICATIVE OF THANKING GOD FOR HIS REFINING WORK IN ONE'S LIFE AND ONE'S LIFE BEING USED IN SERVICE, TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL, PAUL REFERRED TO HIMSELF AT THE END OF HIS LIFE IN THESE TERMS INDICATING THIS MEANING (2TI 4:6-8)

GRAIN OFFERING – REFINING THE NEW NATURE

- THE GRAIN OFFERING NOT ONLY REFERS TO CHRIST, WHO IS THE FIRST FRUITS OF ALL WHO BELIEVE, BUT TO ALL NEW COVENANT BELIEVERS (1CO 15:20-23)
 - OFFERED WITH ALL BLOOD SACRIFICES, IMAGES OF CHRIST, THE GRAIN OFFERING VIEWED WHAT THE BLOOD SACRIFICES WOULD PRODUCE
 - CHRIST MADE THE METAPHOR COMPARING RIPENING WHEAT TO SOULS WAITING FOR SALVATION UNDER THE NEW COVENANT (1O 4:34-38)
 - CHRIST ALSO MADE THE METAPHOR OF EACH SAVED LIFE NEEDING TO BE GROUND AND SIFTED BY TESTING, MATURING THE BELIEVER IN GRACE – PETER (1K 22:87-94)
 - THUS, EACH SAVED BELIEVER IS A WHEAT GRAIN OFFERED TO THE LORD AFTER CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

SACRIFICES AND CHRIST

- EVERYTHING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WRITTEN AS EXAMPLE FOR NEW COVENANT BELIEVERS AND THE BLOOD SACRIFICES REFER ONLY TO CHRIST, THE SINLESS SACRIFICE FOR SIN (1CO 10A-11, EP 5:1)
- THE BLOOD SACRIFICES DO NOT APPLY TO BELIEVERS FOR ALL FLESH IS SINFUL AND CANNOT GLORY ITSELF BEFORE GOD; HUMAN SACRIFICE IS THEREFORE MEANINGLESS (1CO 1:29)
- THUS, PAUL CONCLUDES THAT CHRIST IS OUR PASSOVER LAMB ENABLING US TO LIVE ACCORDING TO OUR NEW NATURE, IN THE SPIRIT, DESPITE OUR BODIES OF FLESH (LEAVEN) (1CO 5:4-8)
- CHRIST PERFORMED HIS GRAIN AND WINE OFFERING BEFORE HIS SACRIFICE STATING HE WOULD NOT DO THIS AGAIN UNTIL HIS RETURN TO BEGIN HIS REIGN IN THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (MT 26:29)

MEANING OF THE EUCHARIST

- THE COMMUNION OR EUCHARIST, GREEK, WAS PERFORMED BY CHRIST OUT OF THE THIRD CUP OF THE PASSOVER CELEBRATION (1CO 11:23-25)
- CHRIST SAID HE WAS OFFERING HIS BODY FOR BELIEVERS AND THAT BELIEVERS WERE TO FOLLOW HIM; I.E., EMULATE HIS EXAMPLE IN THEIR LIVES FOR THEY WERE NOT ABOVE THEIR TEACHER (MT 10:24, JO 13:21-26)
- HIS BLOOD WAS SHED FOR THE NEW COVENANT SO THAT ALL BELIEVERS MIGHT LIVE IN HIM
- HE COMMANDED ALL BELIEVERS TO REPEAT THE EUCHARIST OFTEN TO REMEMBER HIS SACRIFICE
- WE ALSO SHOULD REMEMBER THAT WE ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE AND SEE OURSELVES BEING PREPARED AS SACRIFICES; DRINK AND GRAIN FOLLOWING HIS BLOOD SACRIFICE

WHAT SACRIFICE IS PAUL REFERENCING?

- THUS, TO WHAT SACRIFICE WAS PAUL REFERENCING? IF IT WAS TO OUR DEATH, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE THE WINE OFFERING; BUT PAUL HAS IN MIND THE REFINEMENT OF OUR BODIES
- BODY IS THE VEHICLE FOR ALL INTERACTIONS; YOU ARE KNOWN BY WHAT YOU DO AND SAY (MT 7:15-20, 13:36-37, 25:31-46)
- SINCE THE BODY, FLESH, SEEKS ONLY TO SIN, IT MUST BE DISCIPLINED VIA THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH STRENGTHENS THE MIND TO DO THE WILL OF CHRIST – LIVE THE GOSPEL BEFORE THE WORLD (RO 7:21-25, 8:3-5, 1PE 3:20-21)
- PAUL IS REFERENCING THE GRAIN OFFERING AS EACH OF US REQUIRES REFINEMENT, TESTING, TO THROW OUT THE LEAVEN, TO BECOME FINE FLOUR AS CHRIST; AS WE ARE MADE IN HIS IMAGE (1P 2:21-24)

COMPLETE INTENT OF THE OFFERINGS

- THE FULL INTENT AND TEACHING OF GOD THROUGH THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM IS NOW CLEAR THROUGH PAUL'S WRITINGS (1CO 15:20-28; RO 8:11-14; 2TI 1:13-14; 1PE 1:8-9)
 - EACH BLOOD SACRIFICE LOOKS TO CHRIST'S DEATH AS THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN
 - THE GRAIN OFFERING REPRESENTS THE HARVEST OF SOULS TO COME BECAUSE OF HIS DEATH AND THEIR ONGOING REFINEMENT, MATURATION, PREPARING THEM AS FIT VESSELS FOR ETERNITY
 - THE WINE OFFERING REPRESENTS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH EACH BELIEVER, THE GOODNESS THAT COMES FROM CHRIST'S ATONING DEATH
 - JUST AS CHRIST WILL GIVE ALL TO GOD IN THE END; SO ALSO WILL WE GIVE ALL PRAISE TO CHRIST FOR ALL THE GOOD THAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, AS IT IS DUE TO THE SPIRIT, NOT OURSELVES

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND THE NEXT VERSE

- HAVING LAID THE GROUNDWORK IN THEOLOGY AND APPLICATION OF OLD TESTAMENT KNOWLEDGE FULLY REVEALED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, ONE CAN UNDERSTAND GOD'S WILL
 - WE ARE NOT, CANNOT, CONFORM TO THIS WORLD; OUR NEW NATURE AND INDWELLING SPIRIT WILL NOT ALLOW THIS – CHRISTIANS LOSE THEIR PEACE (ISA 16:14; RO 8:6; 1CO 14:33; GA 5:22)
 - OUR MINDS, SPIRITS, ARE TRANSFORMED, RENEWED UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF THE SPIRIT (1CO 3:14)
 - GOD ALLOWS TESTING TO MATURE US: LEARNING THE GOOD AND SHUNNING THE EVIL (HE 5:11-14)
 - KNOWING THE GOOD, ONLY OF GOD, PLEASES GOD AND IS THE MARK OF A MATURING BELIEVER (JAK 10:18)
 - TESTINGS REFINE US TOWARD THE GOAL OF LEARNING GOD'S WILL AS EPI TOMIZED IN THE GRAIN AND WINE OFFERINGS; OTHERWISE WE WOULD BE POOR, BLIND AND IGNORANT (HE 3:14-22)

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SUMMARY

- TO LEARN THE WILL OF GOD THE BELIEVER LEARNS WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT IS PLEASING THROUGH THE MATURATION, DISCIPLINING, PROCESS
 - THIS MAINLY CONCERNS THE BODY WHICH IS IRREDEEMABLE AND CONSTANTLY SEEKS TO SIN; THUS THE GRAIN OFFERING
 - THE NEW NATURE SEEKS TO PLEASE GOD BUT MUST BE TRAINED AS ANY GROWING CHILD NEEDS TRAINING TO KNOW TO DO THE GOOD AND SHUN THE EVIL IN THE WORLD REPRODUCING CHRIST IN THEM THE HOPE OF GLORY WHICH IS REFLECTED BACK TO THE FATHER (COI 1:24-28)
 - THWARTING THIS PROCESS LEAVES ONE IMMATURE WITH INCREASING DISCIPLINE; OR IS INDICATIVE OF LOSTNESS, TO BE REJECTED BY CHRIST AT HIS COMING (MT 7:21-23, 25:31-46, 1CO 11:27-33; DR 2:14-18)