

Leviticus 3:1–17
The Peace Offering: God is Our Most Precious Treasure
July 29, 2012
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Children’s Overview

- A. Can you remember any special meals in the Bible?
- B. Special meals were/are part of worship:
 - 1. Passover...
 - 2. **Peace Offering**... (Offered to God... God gives some back!)
 - 3. The Lord’s Supper/Eucharist (Thanksgiving)
- C. These Special Meals are Signs: What does a sign do?

II. Understanding the Peace Offering

- A. Background
 - 1. Eaten by the Worshipper?

“The peace offering was a shared meal in which the offerer celebrated with those assembled in the sanctuary the benefits of a peaceful relationship with God. It was a joyous time of feasting in the presence of God” ¹ (“Sacrifice”; v. 17 “no fat”; Cpt. 7)

- 2. Meals & Covenants

Genesis 31:53–54

⁵³ The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.” So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, ⁵⁴ and Jacob offered a *sacrifice* in the hill country and called his kinsmen to *eat bread*. They ate bread and spent the night in the hill country.

Exodus 24:11

¹¹ And *he* did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and *ate and drank*.

¹ Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (110). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

B. Key Points in this “Sacrifice”

1. Herd or Flock/Male or Female
2. Atonement (Blood; Burnt Offering)

Leviticus 3:5

⁵ Then Aaron’s sons shall burn it on the altar *on top of the burnt offering*, which is on the wood on the fire; it is a *food offering* with *a pleasing aroma to the Lord*.

3. Identification/Dedication (Fat was God’s)

Genesis 45:18 (Pharaoh ... Joseph)

¹⁸ and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the *fat of the land*.’

4. Food for God? (A meal; Fat)

Psalm 50:12–13

¹² “If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine. ¹³ *Do I eat the flesh of bulls* or drink the blood of goats?

“the worshipper, ... ‘shared a meal with the Lord, which means that he had fellowship with him’.” ²

Leviticus 3:16

¹⁶ And the priest shall burn them on the altar as a *food offering* with a pleasing aroma. **All fat is the Lord’s.**

¹⁷ It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, in all your dwelling places, **that you eat neither *fat* nor *blood*.**”

C. Summary of the **Leviticus 3**

“Like the two previous offerings, this offering had a God-ward emphasis. Everything in this chapter concerns what is for the Lord—which animals could be offered and the parts to be consumed on the altar. They are offerings ‘**made by fire to the Lord**’ (3:5, 9, 11, 14, 16).” [emphasis his] ³

² **Eveson, P. H.** (2007). *The Beauty of Holiness: The Book of Leviticus Simply Explained*. Welwyn Commentary Series (52–53). Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

³ Ibid. (54).

1. Do not forget what this peace cost
2. God is the most honored participant

III. Jesus is Our Peace Offering, Being with Jesus is Our Goal

- A. The Blood of Jesus was Shed for Us!
- B. *Communion* with Jesus/God is the Goal
(The Signs vs. the Reality)

Romans 5:1–8

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in **hope of the glory of God.** ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, *because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

Key Idea

The best part of being at peace with God is being in communion with God.

- B. Illustration: (What this Communion Looks Like)

Matthew 26:6–13

⁶ Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. ⁸ And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? ⁹ For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” ¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹ For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² In pouring this

ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. ¹³ Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

C. My Prayer...Our Prayer

John 17:24–26

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, *to see my glory that you have given me* because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ ***I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.***”

— John Piper, “God is the Gospel”

“Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savoring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It's a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don't want God above all things, we have not been converted by the gospel.”

“The ultimate good of the gospel is seeing and savoring the beauty and value of God. God's wrath and our sin obstruct that vision and that pleasure. You can't see and savor God as supremely satisfying while you are full of rebellion against Him and He is full of wrath against you. The removal of this wrath and this rebellion is what the gospel is for. The ultimate aim of the gospel is the display of God's glory and the removal of every obstacle to our seeing it and savoring it as our highest treasure. “Behold Your God!” is the most gracious command and the best gift of the gospel. If we do not see Him and savor Him as our greatest fortune, we have not obeyed or believed the gospel.”