

60. The sacrifices of the Levitical priesthood are used to illustrate the “spiritual sacrifices” required of the Church Age priesthood of the believer. There are four basic spiritual sacrifices recorded by the writer of Hebrews 13:

- (1) **Praise:** The first obligation of the believer is to honor the written Word by studying the communication of the Word in live Bible classes or its recorded messages.

Much too often today, we find that “praising God and His Word” involves bodily gesticulations and verbal enunciations that serve to draw more attention to the individuals involved rather than emphasis on the illumination of its content. You are praising the Word when you study the Word. (Hebrews 13:15.)

- (2) **Production of Divine Good:** Far too many believers today produce human good rather than divine good. Whatever effort is made to perform a good deed, in order for it to be the production of “divine good,” it must be done under the filling of the Holy Spirit and motivated and applied by divine guidance.

The primary focus of divine good is invisible impact. To accomplish this the believer must first grow in grace. When a person is in the sophisticated spiritual life, his decisions are drawn from divine viewpoint. Decisions from that inventory produce divine good.

Good works are often associated with human-viewpoint thinking based on mental attitude sins such as guilt, intimidation, and self-aggrandizement. Divine good is simply production from a high inventory of biblical ideas in the soul.

Human good is primarily the production of the cosmic systems from false motivation. (Hebrews 13:16a.)

- (3) **Giving.** This is a category of Christian service that commemorates the grace policy of God. It is the volitional act of presenting money or commodities designed to sustain the communication of Bible doctrine in a local church.

Believers may additionally choose to give to missionary organizations, seminaries, and media, which are designed to disseminate the teaching, training, or writings of persons or organizations that subscribe to historical, grace-oriented theology.

Giving is the means of sustaining the local church or peripheral organizations. Grace giving must always occur from personal motivation and never from efforts or programs that solicit giving. (Hebrews 13:16b.)

- (4) **Submission to Pastoral Authority.** Order in the Body of Christ depends on the message of the pastor of the local church. When his message is accurate and faithfully taught yet response to that teaching is ignored, it constitutes rejection of his authority.

This requirement is a necessary part of the believer's spiritual sacrifice. Pastors are protected by God since they are His divinely chosen resource for communicating biblical truth in his generation.

The pastor has complete delegated authority over the local church with regard to the teaching of the Word of God both in the pulpit and peripherals such as Prep School.

61. These spiritual sacrifices are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. They constitute divine good and result in *exōteriké harmonía* in the body of Christ.

1 Peter 2:5 - You as living stones are built up into a spiritual building, a holy priesthood, to continuously offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable and well pleasing to God through the instrumentality of Jesus Christ. (EXT)

62. This subject continues with an important conclusion at verse 9:

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellence of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. (NASB)