

Welcome

The Same old Struggles

“Periods of spiritual decline occur in history because the gravity of indwelling sin keeps pulling believers first into formal religion and then into open apostasy.” *The Dynamics of Spiritual Renewal*, Richard Lovelace

Read Malachi 1:6-2:2

A Crash Course on Old Testament Sacrifices

Laying on of Hands

Burnt Offering in Leviticus 1

Fellowship or Peace Offering in Leviticus 3

Sin Offering in Leviticus 4

Guilt offering in Leviticus 5

The Need for a Perfect Sacrifice

Malachi 1:8, 12-14 - **⁸When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the Lord of hosts.¹²But you profane (my name) when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised. ¹³You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the Lord. ¹⁴I am a great king.**

Why did the sacrifice have to be perfect? Because the sacrifice had to matter to the person offering it to understand what was truly transpiring.

But not a single one of the animals offered took away any sins of anybody. Not a single one. Hebrews 10:11 - **Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.**

Their purpose was never to take away sins. They pointed to Jesus. He is the Perfect Sacrifice.

Hebrew 10:10, 12-13 - **¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹²When this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.¹ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.**

Hebrews 9:12 - **He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.**

REGAINING THE GOD-CENTERED HEART

Malachi 2:2 - **If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings.**

Charting the Gospel-Driven Heart

God's Requirements for Acceptance

Our Perception of Our Performance

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Romans 10:9-10 - If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

RESPONDING TO A GOD WHO SACRIFICED HIMSELF