

For Our Information

Phyllis Ragsdale is doing a little better. She is still dealing with a respiratory infection.

Vickie McNeas had stitches taken out and is wearing a brace. She is still dealing with a lot of pain.

Joyce Venable is still dealing with pain also.

Jonathan & Amy Simpson are out of town this weekend.

Remember one another as we pray
to the Father each day

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

confused as to what is truth and what is falsehood.

Why, then, do so many follow error and teach it? The Scriptures tell us. Some are blinded by prejudice (**Matthew 13:13-15**). Some are choosing to establish their own system of righteousness (**Romans 10:1-3**), and thus do not submit to the righteousness of God. In ignorance of the truth, some blindly follow the leadership of blind guides, being overcome by the wiles of the devil (**Matthew 15:14; Ephesians 6:11**). Some love darkness because they participate in evil doing and wish to justify themselves in their deeds, so they stay away from the truth (**John 3:19-21**). Many gullible souls do not study for themselves, but rather accept what they are told because personal responsibility is too much work for them. Others simply do not believe the truth when they have heard it. Still others have become so infatuated with human wisdom and knowledge falsely so called that they are utterly swept away by it (**1 Timothy 6:20-21**).

Seeking His Righteousness

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How to Be a Living Sacrifice

Ben Smith

As Christians, we must be a living sacrifice, as commanded in **Romans 12:1-2** (ESV), where it says,

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."



I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Galatians 2:20



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

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But what is a sacrifice, and how do we become one?

Vine's Dictionary describes sacrifice as the act of offering something, which is usually a life. There are many examples of sacrifice throughout the Bible, some of which were pleasing to God and others that were not. Pleasing examples include: Abel's animal offering (**Genesis 4**), Abraham's offering of Isaac (**Genesis 22**), and when Jesus offered Himself (all four gospels). Bad examples include: Cain's offering from the ground (**Genesis 4**), Saul's unlawful sacrifice (**1Samuel 13**), and the offerings of the people in the book of **Malachi** (vs. **6-14**).

What do the pleasing examples of sacrifice all have in common? They were all offered in faith, in the correct way, and they were the best that was available. Look at the bad examples, though. Cain's offering wasn't done in faith, Saul's offering was done incorrectly, and the people in the book of **Malachi** were going through the motions with a lazy and cast-off attitude.

Each of these sacrifices involved a death, so what is a living sacrifice? Going back to the text in **Romans 12:1**, we are told to present our bodies. Verse **2** describes how to do that by telling us to transform ourselves by the renewing of our minds. I can think of three easy ways to start the transformation process - study our Bibles (**2Timothy 2:15**), pray about it (**James 1:5**), and surround ourselves with other Christians (**1Corinthians 15:33**).

Romans 12:2 also says that we are not to be conformed to this world. That means we cannot desire to be like the world. Jesus said in **Luke 9:23**, "If

Store In My Heart

Jude 3

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Jude urged his readers to put forth diligent effort to fight for the faith. What needed focus was the need to fight for the faith. We know were to find God's Word. We need to focus on making sure it is not lost, to ourselves and others. We ought to be proclaiming the Word to the lost and dying around us. We need to make certain that the Word is active and working in our own life.

God gave us His Will, now we need to fight for its continued spread among men.

anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Each day, I must compare what I want to do with what God wants me to do. Selfishness cannot win if I am denying myself of worldly temptations.

The only way to truly be a living sacrifice is to do it continuously. If you're continuously living in a sacrificial way, you will be rewarded. This can be seen clearly throughout the Old and New Testaments (**Isaiah 40:30-31**; **2Timothy 4:7-8**), but especially in **1Corinthians 15:57-58**, *"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."*

In short, put God first, and keeping on putting God first.

Truth Versus Lies

Gilbert Alexander

God has always spoken the truth. He cannot lie (**Hebrews 6:18**). When the prophets of old spoke by the Holy Spirit, they always told the truth and never made a prophecy that failed to come to pass under the conditions God had set (**2Peter 1:19-21**). Thus, the Holy Scriptures are truth, and those things written or taught contrary to the Scriptures and denying the Scriptures are lies and deception. Satan is the father of lies (**John 8:44**). Those who proclaim his falsehoods and perversions of what God has said are in his camp and are guilty of teaching lies. Here, then, is a contrast so clearly defined that none should be