

The Sacrifice of a POURED-OUT LIFE

Text: Romans 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:6 Date: May 2, 2021

INTRODUCTION

We are called to offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. What does that mean?

God has made us priests—we have called out of darkness and into His glorious light. Like the OT priests, we have been set apart, cleansed by blood, given incredible access and personal access to God's presence, to fulfill certain purposes. And as we said several weeks ago, the purposes laid out for us could be summed up this way. Let's read it again:

ALL authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus Christ and from that exalted position, He has given authority and commissioned His Church to:

- *WORSHIP God*
- *DISCIPLE the Believer and*
- *Be His AMBASSADORS to the World*

Worship God. Disciple the Believer. Be His Ambassadors to the World.

In short, Worship, Service, and Evangelism.

Today, we are going to look at the Sacrifice of a POURED-OUT LIFE.

2 Timothy 4:6-7

⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Paul at the end of his life, and now facing what he knows will likely be his execution, says "Jesus You are worthy! As I have lived my life, I am now ready to live in death. **Jesus You deserve all of me. Every last drop. O God! Let my life be poured out before the Lord as an offering to Him.**

And Paul exhorted ALL of us to adopt the same attitude. In Romans 12:1 he writes:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

- Soldier vs. Civilian
- Athlete vs. Spectator
- Farmer vs. Consumer

Malachi 1:6-14

Bringing an offering that is not our best is not pleasing to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:15

As God poured out His life for us on the cross, He now calls us to pour out our lives for Him.

¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:15

Pitch vs Code Preaching (e.g. 1 Corinthians 7:29-31)

The Danger of Hearing Challenging Messages

- We feel convicted but not enough to actually change.
- Then we feel low-level guilt/shame and begin to withdraw or put on a mask
- Then we don't like feeling this low-level guilt/shame so we become somewhat resentful of the person or group that challenged us so strongly. Sometimes that person is God Himself and we walk with a certain chip on our shoulder toward Him for days or weeks
- Then we begin to justify our actions or inactions in any manner of ways so that we may deflect any further challenge or conviction.
- Then we are forced to go into even further hiding or apathy just to mentally and emotionally move forward

Practical Applications

- Be Kind to Yourself, but not Permissive—It is natural for us to struggle to remain passionate for Christ, but we must continue to push ourselves.
- Bring Your Kids—Don't let this be a hindrance to participate in the life of the church
- Be More Expressive—This will both solidify your heart's passion and encourage others
- Less Screen—This is likely the biggest stumbling block/idol that modern Christians must deal with radically in order to live a poured-out life
- Practice Sabbath—Living a poured-out life does not mean you never rest
- Intimacy First—Let your Martha activity flow from a Mary intimacy.
- Be Filled—Apart from the Spirit of God it is impossible to accomplish the mission of God.
- Discover Your Shape and Do It—Next SHAPE Class will be **June 6, 3pm**.
- Grow With Others—we need others to spur us on toward love and good deeds

Remember... as you process through this challenge, filter it through the lens of the Gospel:

- You are Not Guilty
- You are Loved
- You are Free
- You are Gifted and Called

But...

- You are also COMPELLED— In view of such a great salvation, be holy, love deeply, and witness boldly.