

# The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

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George L. Faull, Editor

## Fellowshipping with God

By Terry Carter

**Text: Leviticus 1:1-9**

### Introduction

- A. This is a book of laws, a handbook for the priests.
- B. The Hebrew title means, "And He Called," which is the first phrase of the book.
- C. Leviticus means, "pertaining to Levites," the priestly tribe.
- D. However, it is a book for all God's people, verse 2.
- E. We are both God's people and priests, **I Peter 2:9**.
- F. The quote, "the Word of the Lord," appears more in this book than any other.
  1. It is not something we should find dull or uninteresting.
  2. Its message is key to the theme of Scripture.
  3. Without it, the cross is a mystery.
- G. The main idea is really the grace of God.
  1. How we, as sinners, may come into the presence of God.
  2. It is not spoken from the holy mountain, but from the tabernacle.
    - a. The moral was given accompanied with terror.
    - b. But the laws of sacrifice and worship from the mercy seat.
  3. No promise of salvation was given from the mountain.
  4. Mercy is shown from the tent of mercy or tent of meeting.

5. Here we worship and have communion, or fellowship, with God.
6. Here God dwells between the cherubim over the mercy seat.
7. Here God accepts a sinner by the death of a substitute.
- H. How much more do we have grace under Christ, **Hebrews 12:18-24 ,28**.
- I. It divides naturally into five sections:
  1. Sacrifice, **Chapters 1-7**.
  2. The priesthood, **Chapters 8-10**.
  3. Daily living as holy people, **Chapters 11-22**.
  4. Special holy days and seasons, **Chapters 23-25**.
  5. Exhortation, **Chapters 26-27**.
- J. Let's consider some lessons from the chapters on sacrifice.

### God Desires Fellowship with His People.

- A. This entire book is filled with instructions that make this possible.
- B. A large part of Exodus deals with the construction of the tabernacle and its furniture.
- C. Now, Leviticus contains instructions and regulations concerning its use.
- D. Numbers deals with their encampment around it, etc.
- E. A large portion of the Law is dedicated to the idea of God allowing His people to draw near to Him.
- F. In this book, God actually expects, and invites His people to draw near to Him.

1. There is provision for all to come.
  - a. The rich brought from the herd.
  - b. The middle class brought from the flock.
  - c. The poor brought from the birds.
2. There are sacrifices required at specified times.
3. Others are for any time the individual chooses.
  - a. God actually insists that we commune with Him at regular intervals.
  - b. But He desires for us to choose to fellowship with Him at other times, as well.
  - c. He is available for fellowship with His people at any time, any day.
4. Neither of these types of sacrifices exempted anyone from the other.
5. Worshiping God when you choose does not exempt you from worshipping Him when He requires, or vice versa.

### Sacrifice is Required for a Sinful People to Have Fellowship with a Holy God.

- A. We are a sinful people, and God is a Holy God.
- B. But He still desires that we draw near.
- C. This requires sacrifice.
- D. We are unworthy, but sacrifice is made for us.
- E. It is not necessary that we be perfect to fellowship with God.
- F. But a sacrifice is required on behalf of the one bringing it.

- G. Jesus is our perfect sacrifice once and for all.
- H. But notice that sacrifice is an admission of our sinfulness.
1. The one bringing the sacrifice put his hands on the head of the sacrifice.
  2. To do so was to recognize that you were a sinner approaching a Holy God.
    - a. It transferred your sin to the animal.
    - b. It acknowledged that you deserved to die.
    - c. It admitted your dependence on the sacrifice.
    - d. It demonstrated your submission to God's Will and authority.
  3. We do the same at the Lord's Supper.
  4. Our salvation doesn't hinge on our righteousness, but our accepting the sacrifice of the sacrifice without blemish, Jesus.
  5. What God requires is not sinlessness, but an admission of sinfulness, I **John 1:7-2:2**.
  6. That is called, "grace".
1. This prevented pretension on the part of the worshipper who would indulge in their own methods of sacrifice, thereby honoring themselves instead of God.
  2. All sacrifices must follow the specifically prescribed procedures.
  3. This says something about those who think anything in worship they offer to God in any manner is acceptable to Him.
  4. It also says something about "superior" verses "inferior" worship styles.
  5. The important thing about a worship style is its submission to God's Will, not our own.
  6. It must reflect our awareness of our sinfulness and His Holiness.
  7. Any acceptable worship style must do these things, **Hebrews 12:28**.
  8. But I think God has a problem with one that doesn't.
  9. Worship is intended to be vertical, not horizontal.
  10. That is, directed towards God, not other men.

### **God Desires that Fellowship to be in the Center of our Lives.**

- A. The tabernacle was the center of the nation's religious life.
- B. They encamped around the tabernacle by tribe.
- C. Later, the temple was in the center of the Promised Land.
- D. The book of Leviticus is in the center of the Pentateuch.
- E. Their greatness as a nation was their intimate relationship to Jehovah God.
- F. Our greatness as a church, or individual, hinges on the same thing.

### **God Regulates our Fellowship with Him.**

- A. For every sacrifice, all details of how it was to be offered was specified.
- B. There was required preparation before coming to the tabernacle.
- C. For the regular sacrifices, even the times, were specified.
- D. Even voluntary sacrifices were under God's regulation.

### **CONCLUSION**

We see in this our sinfulness.

We see in this God's love for us.

We see God's wrath upon sin.

We see God's grace.

We see His desires to apply it to all men.

We see His desire for fellowship with His people at all times.

Put God's worship at the center of your life and experience His grace daily.