



2/3 March 2019
Vol. 41, No. 9

Offer Sacrifices That Please God

Exodus 27:1-8, Hebrews 10:1-14, Romans 12:1

English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Anthem
Worship through Fellowship
Pastoral Prayer
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Pastor Emer Manaloto
The Lord's Supper
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Panalanging Pastoral
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Dags Miguel
Banal na Hapunan
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon



Offer Sacrifices That Please God

Today's Message (2/3 March 2019) /

Exodus 27:1-8, Hebrews 10:1-14, Romans 12:1

God desires to fellowship with man until sin came and broke it. For God and man to continue to meet, the altar was made. There may have been an earlier altar when Adam and Eve fell into sin, and God made them garments of animal skins for their covering (*Genesis 3:21*). Later, their son Abel brought a blood offering (*Genesis 4:4*). Noah marked his new covenant with God by sacrificing at an altar after the flood (*Genesis 8:20*). Abraham's spiritual journey was signified by his altar experiences (*Genesis 12:8, 13:3-4, 22:9*). Then Moses was instructed by God to make an altar in the outer court of the tabernacle (*Exodus 27:1-8*). This largest piece of equipment is also known as the "altar of burnt offering" (*Leviticus 4:7,10,18*). This square altar was made of wood with horns on its four corners and covered, not with gold as the items inside the Holy Place, but with bronze (as all the altar's utensils and accessories were also made of bronze). Like the other pieces of furniture and equipment, it was also built to be carried by poles.

God has placed a great emphasis on altars. An altar is a meeting place for God and humanity. It's the place where God accepts the sacrifice and in turn blesses the individual who gave the sacrifice. Altar means a "slaughter place" which seems morbid, even gruesome, but the penalty for sin is awesome, requiring the shedding of blood! As *Leviticus 17:11* explains, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life." This altar illustrates the fact that one can approach God only by a sacrifice because it is only through it that sin is atoned for. While the vast majority of biblical references to "altars" are in the Old Testament, these passages point to Jesus' sacrificial death for us on the cross. Then as Christians, being identified with Christ, we are urged to also offer spiritual sacrifices to God. What are these sacrifices that please God?

1. THE _____ SACRIFICES: THE CONTINUAL OFFERING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

"You shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits broad. The altar shall be square, and its height shall be three cubits. And you shall make horns for it on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with bronze" (Exodus 27:1-2).

"And he shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar that is in the tent of meeting before the Lord, and the rest of the blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting" (Leviticus 4:18).

"Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out" (Leviticus 6:13).

- a. The offerings: animals ("the substitutes")
- b. The offerers: priests (God's "human representatives")



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2. THE _____ SACRIFICE: THE ONCE FOR ALL OFFERING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified (Hebrews 10:10-14).

- a. The Offering: Christ (“the Lamb of God”)
- b. The Offerer: Christ (“the Great High Priest”)

3. THE _____ SACRIFICES: THE CONTINUAL SPIRITUAL OFFERING TODAY.

...You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5).

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:15-16).

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 (Romans 12:1).

- a. The offerings: Christians (“spiritual sacrifices”)
- b. The offerers: Christians (“a holy priesthood”)

What do you have that needs to be brought to the altar? What cares do you need to cast at His feet? When you come to the altar, the High Priest of Heaven will meet you there to receive your sacrifice and give you mercy, grace, salvation, deliverance, healing, peace, and joy. But the very first thing that He wants you to bring before the altar is yourself. You need to continually place yourself—all that you are, all that you have, and all you hope to be on the altar as a sacrifice to Him. As you come to the altar today, offer sacrifices that please God! Let this be the prayer of your heart:

*Take my life a living sacrifice,
Knowing it's the least that I can do
Make my life a living sacrifice,
Holy and acceptable to You! ■*

GRATEFUL TO GOD

We praise the Lord for two key events this February and how well they turned out. The first one was our 41st Anniversary, where we highlighted the theme “Growing Personally, Reaching Outwardly” as our way of re-emphasizing our motto (Know Christ and Make Him Known). Best of all, the theme for this year neatly summarizes our Strategic Map for 2019-2021 and possibly beyond. Allow me to acknowledge with gratitude the hard work of our ministry servants in the Worship Ministry, as well as our hard working staff. It gave me great joy to see Jungue et al. leading us in worship, and to see our singers and dancers, young and old, doing what they did for the Lord. Only by the grace of God have we come this far, and purely by the grace of God will we continue!

I also was blessed by GCF's participation in the blessedly successful Will Graham evangelistic event last month. It was a significant first time for us, and though we slightly underestimated the amount of work it involved for GCF, it was a terrific experience and blessing for all. I praise God for our members who dedicated some of their regular offering to the Crusade. I praise God for all the choir members of all ages who joined the Crusade singers. Praise God for the unique involvement of GCFers Dan Cura and Flor Tarriela and others. Praise God for Lily Cheng and her team who this time offered their decorating skills for the crusade. I risk missing other names, so let me stop here and apologize in advance in case I missed

anybody. God knows how you lovingly gave, so please forgive a forgetful pastor just in case.

WHEELCHAIR DONATION

Some gracious souls who wish to remain anonymous donated ten wheelchairs to GCF for our use, entrusting their disposition to me. The church can put to good use at least four of these immediately, and the remaining will be distributed based on humanitarian need. Praise God for these donors—you know who you are! And so does the Lord.

OUT FOR THE SHEPHERDS CONFERENCE

As I write this, I am at Grace Community Church of John MacArthur to attend the Shepherds Conference as part of my continuing pastoral equipping, graciously supported by our Board of Elders, and of course, the GCF family. Again, I pray that whatever I learn will be “downloaded” spiritually to you all for your benefit. While there, I will also be visiting Pastor Dave and PJ Yount, and preach at two other churches including the church of GCF pastor-at-large, Caloy Peña at La Puente, California. In my absence today, Pastor Emer takes over, while Pastor BJ Sebastian, and Elders Ed Trono and Dan Cura will cover the next three Sundays in that order. For times like this, I can't wait to download their sermons and be blessed by these wonderful preachers. Please make sure you invite others to listen with you here at GCF ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



CELEBRATE FRIENDSHIPS

GCF Women, we invite you to celebrate March, which is International Women's Month! We enjoy you to participate in the activities of our different fellowship groups: NAOMI, SupaMoms, SHE, and JOY Women. Please visit our booth and sign-up!



YA TALK 5: HE SAID, SHE SAID

Understanding How Men and Women Deal with Friendships and Relationships Differently
March 16 (Sat), 2:00-4:00 p.m., Youth Center
Open to youth and all adults.
Please register by contacting 0917 625 0244.



APOLOGETICS CLASS

with Pastor BJ Sebastian
Starting this March 2019
9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Youth Center



GGEX EXTREME

featuring Discovering What the Future Holds by Precept Ministries
All adults without GG are invited.
March 31 (Sun), 9:30-10:30 a.m.
at the Fellowship Hall
Free snack and material will be provided.
Registration is **free** but **limited to first 200**.
Register at the booth at the lobby.



GIVING REMINDERS

- **Do not** leave envelopes with your offering on the Bible pockets. Drop them in the offering bags during giving time or in designated offering boxes around the auditorium.
- When giving a check, please make it payable to "Greenhills Christian Fellowship Inc." or "GCF Inc." only.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His mercy and grace by the Basilad family, the Valera family, and the Messiah College. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express

Mixed group led by Ptr. Emer Manaloto
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Rm. B124

God's Grace GG (G4)

Group for couples
Fridays, 7:30-10:00 p.m.
Rm. B124

Life in Technicolor

Support group for cancer patients and survivors
Every 3rd Sunday of the month
12:00-3:00 p.m., Seniors' Rm.

Best Together in Christ

Group for couples
Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 1921.

DMG Leaders' Assembly

Precept Facilitators' Training on "Discovering What the Future Holds" material with Elder Ave Gaspar | March 23 (Sat), 1:00-6:00 p.m. at BM07-08

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / February 2019

FEBRUARY	Projected	Rcvd., Feb. 1-28	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Feb. 28
General Funds	7,333,268	8,116,910	General Funds	16,943,674	16,688,406
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	1,062,191	Mission Support Fund	2,635,395	2,216,891
Others (Designated, etc.)	859,845	210,020	Others (Designated, etc.)	1,558,394	956,895
TOTAL	9,510,811	9,389,120	TOTAL	21,137,463	19,862,192

“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved.”

—Matthew 9:17 (NLT)

The teachings of the Pharisees and experts of the Law were not at all bad. Such religious devotion was a response to their people’s history of being conquered and exiled. It was an expression of a small nation struggling to preserve their history and identity by holding on to what the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has promised—that they will be blessed and be a blessing to the nations.

But as time went by, such religious devotion turned into cosmetic piety. Their faithfulness was marked by merely fulfilling religious duties for self-interest and self-preservation. It dulled their compassion towards the powerless and needy. They resorted to shallow charity with restrictions so as not to break the Law at the expense of another who needs attention and help. The Law became for them a chain that withholds them from becoming blessings to others.

Central to the life and person of Jesus is the coming of the kingdom of God. It is mostly the subject of many of His parables and teachings, and it is the main theme of the best-known prayer, the Lord’s Prayer: “Thy kingdom come.”

Like all other metaphors and symbols, the kingdom of God has more than one meaning in the message of Jesus. It points to God’s power active in Jesus’ work as a healer and exorcist, and it also refers to the presence of God. In other texts, it indicates a community, a kingdom at the end of history where all people will gather at the great banquet of God.

But fundamentally, the kingdom of God speaks of His redemptive passion to heal and set the world aright. It echoes back to God’s promise of blessing to Abraham, and has now fully manifested in the life and person of Jesus.

The kingdom of God speaks of His redemptive passion to heal and set the world aright.

The hearts of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law were hardened by their shallow devotion. So when Jesus came into the picture, it became hard for them to grasp what Jesus is doing. But what Jesus is doing is both a confrontation and an invitation. It confronts the status quo (old wineskin) that has become dismissive of the weak and needy, a system that is not in line with the kingdom of God but looks much like the exploitative empire of Rome. But it also invites the religious into the kingdom of God (new wineskin), to receive the wine that brings blessing, healing, and rejoicing, a drink that delights the both the marginalized poor and the jaded rich ■

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS *at the Chapel*

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

ON THE COVER: “For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified”—Heb. 10:14. Featured art: *Descent from the Cross* (1617-18) by Peter Paul Rubens (public domain). After His once-and-for-all death on the cross, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus asked for Christ’s body so they may bury it. That He was actually buried is another proof that He really died.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

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Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____
Age: ____ Landline no.: _____
Mobile no.: _____
Address: _____

E-mail: _____
Year of membership: _____
Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

Today is 2/3 March 2019, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (2 Corinthians 5:18).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.