

THE SERVANT'S DANCE V

THE SERVANT'S SACRIFICIAL LIFE

1 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 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Philippians 2:17-18

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

II Timothy 4:6,7

I. The ascension offering / The whole burnt offering / The main course

- * The whole burnt offering was an act of worship in which the Israelite offered to God a whole animal. The fire on the altar completely consumed it as a “substitute” for the offeror, and as a symbol of his total, personal self-sacrifice to God.

A. Selection criteria (Leviticus 1:2,3a)

² *“Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When anyone among you brings an offering to the LORD, bring as your offering an animal from either the herd or the flock. ³ “‘If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, you are to offer a male without defect.*

B. Sacred objective (Leviticus 1:3b)

You must present it at the entrance to the tent of meeting so that it will be acceptable to the LORD.

C. Identification with the offering (Leviticus 1:4)

⁴ *You are to lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on your behalf to make atonement for you.*

D. Sacrifice of the offering / Killing the animal and processing the blood (Leviticus 1:5)

⁵ *You are to slaughter the young bull before the LORD, and then Aaron’s sons the priests shall bring the blood and splash it against the sides of the altar at the entrance to the tent of meeting.*

E. Skinning the animal and dissecting it (Leviticus 1:6)

⁶ *You are to skin the burnt offering and cut it into pieces.*

F. Arranging the altar (Leviticus 1:7,8)

⁷ *The sons of Aaron the priest are to put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. ⁸ Then Aaron’s sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, including the head and the fat, on the wood that is burning on the altar.*

G. Cleansing entrails and legs (Leviticus 1:9a)

⁹ You are to wash the internal organs and the legs with water,

H. Burning the offering (Leviticus 1:9b;13b)

...and the priest is to burn all of it on the altar. It is a burnt offering, a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the LORD.

****** Sheep, goats, and doves and pigeons also could be an ascension offering. Everyone was welcome.

II. We are each called to offer ourselves wholly and completely to God in total surrender. “All of me to all of you.” Each of us are a complete ascension, offering the main course.

III. The Second offering / The drink offering / The side dish

A. In Philippians 2, Paul mentions the second offering with which he identifies both himself and his ministry. “Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering.” Alongside the ascension offering (whole burnt offering) there were, in the promised land, also drink offerings. Wine poured on the side of the altar with each burnt offering.

B. If the ascension offering was the main course, then the drink offering was the side dish.

C. Paul tells the Philippians that each of them is being offered as a living sacrifice, an ascension offering, and that his labor for their joy and faith is the drink offering on the side.

D. Paul pours himself out as a drink offering with absolute joy. He gladly spends, and is spent, pouring himself out as a drink offering to help bring them nearer to God.

- E. Every Christian is a living ascension offering, daily presenting ourselves to God through faith in Christ. (Hebrews 9:12;26)
- F. We are all to be drink offerings poured out for one another in our prayers are concern our charity and our service.

IV. Paul's last emptying. (II Timothy 4:6,7)

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

- A. Paul ends his life as a drink offering, completely given over to God and emptied from the cup.
- B. Paul speaks of his death, of his life's blood being shed, under the well-known peaceful image of the wine poured out at the time of the sacrifice, a sweet-smelling savor unto the Lord. (Numbers 15:1-10)
- C. Paul considers himself, on the eve of being sacrificed, as a blood libation—a true drink offering.

V. Eight ways to pour forth as a drink offering on others.

- A. "Admonish one another." (Romans 15:14)
- B. "Bear one another's burdens." (Galatians 6:2)
- C. "Be kind and tender hearted one toward another." (Ephesians 4:32)
- D. "Submit to one another." (Ephesians 5:21)
- E. "Comfort one another." (I Thessalonians 4:18)
- F. "Live in peace one with another. (I Thessalonians 5:13)
- G. "Confess your faults, one toward another." (James 5:16)

H. “Be hospitable to one another.” (I Peter 4:9)