

09.14.2008 (Sun)

An Offering To The Lord (Lev 3:1-5)

The Scriptures says that both man and animals were made out of the ground. Gen 2:19 says that “the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air.” Gen 2:7, however, says that “the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground.” Do you see the difference between the two?

One is formed *out of the ground*; the other is formed *from the dust of the ground*. In Hebrew the expression ‘of the ground’ in Gen 2:19 is ‘min hadama.’ Gen 2:7 adds one more word to it: ‘apar min hadama.’ *Apar* means *dust and ash*. Dust or ash is the way in which differentiates the method of making man from the beast.

Dust is sort of fine, dry powder. Oxford Dictionary defines it as “fine, dry powder consisting of tiny particles of earth or waste matter lying on the ground or on surfaces or carried in the air.” Any person who is far away from God is like the dust lying on the ground.

For dust-man to become close with the eternal God he needs to give sacrifice called the fellowship offering. Fellowship means friendly association with people who share the same interests. We can say that fellowship is a group of people meeting to pursue a shared interest or aim.

So what is the fellowship offering? It is an offering so you can be near God. It is a sacrifice so you can be one with God and enjoy His peace in your life. And, what does God require from your fellowship offering? Well, the fellowship offering has to do with giving the inner parts. He wants all the fat that covers the inner parts like the liver and kidneys from your animal.

What is the function of the liver? It controls the amount of blood flow in the body. It also stores important substances such as glucose and minerals like copper and iron and vitamins A and D to sustain and strengthen the body.

What about the kidneys? Your two kidneys are vital organs that perform many functions to keep your blood clean and chemically balanced. Did you know that your kidneys process about 200 quarts of blood to sift out 2 quarts of waste products and extra water everyday?

You see, the wastes in your blood come from the food you eat. Your body uses the food for energy. After your body has taken what it needs from the food, waste is sent to the blood. If your kidneys do not remove these wastes, the waste would build up in the blood and damage your body.

Imagine a clogged water pipe. The flow isn't there, right? Without the proper care and disposal of the wastes the body would stop functioning well. The body would not grow. Instead, the body will become sick and weak. So can you see how important the right balance is for your body? Right balance is necessary for life, but excess levels can be harmful.

So fellowship offering is about giving my inner parts like liver and kidneys. Why does God want them from me? God wants them to teach me so that I can function as God's body. To be one with God I need to be His. God wants us to be so close to Him that He desires us to be inside of Him. Just as I can't live without the inner parts God is showing His love that we can't live without being in Him.

The sacrifices of animals in the Old Testament symbolized repentance. Thru repentance I can give my inner parts to confess my love, to promise my obedience. That's really what fellowship offering was about. Just as we give inner parts of the animals in the offering we need to have the heart of God.

In Philemon the Apostle Paul said of Onesimus, the runaway slave, as his own heart. Phm 1:12 says "I am sending him - who is my very heart - back to you!" The heart is the mind that is filled with love. The heart and attitude are inseparable. That is why Php 2:5 says "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus!"

So give your liver to the Lord. The liver is a storage for the blood cells to rest. The liver strengthens the body with all kinds of vitamins and minerals. Can you give enough space in your heart so that the life of God can remain and live in you (Jn 15:5)? Can you strengthen the body of God, the church with all your heart (Col 1:18)? Can you get rid of all rubbish things in your life (Php 3:8)?

I began today by telling you about how man was made from the dust of the ground. Dust is like powder. Powder comes from beating and pounding and grinding. Figuratively speaking, powder comes from brokenness. Our Lord Jesus Christ was beaten and broken to become dust for us!

He became our dust so we could become the best in God! So what should we give to Him? How shall we honor Him? I say, we should give Him us! The best gift you could ever give to the Lord is yourself! Give Him your heart! Give Him your inner thoughts! Honor Him with your spirit, soul and body!