



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



What Kind of Sacrifices are We offering to God?

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

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1 Peter 2. There is some real good thought here in this lesson and some things that I never gave much thought to until the Lord laid these verses on my heart a few days ago. We have been thinking about and studying on them. Please whisper a word of prayer for us please.

1 Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

1 Peter 2:3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

1 Peter 2:4 To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

1 Peter 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

1 Peter 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1 Peter 2:10 Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Peter is writing here in a time when great persecution had begun. We know that Peter—we know that he was one of the inner circle with Jesus. We know that he saw Jesus do some things that some of the others did not get to do. We know Peter, James and John got to see a lot of things that the other disciples did not do. We know it was Peter that Jesus Christ gave the keys to the kingdom. It was Peter that preached on the day of Pentecost and opened the door of the gospel unto the Jewish people.

Thousands and thousands of people got saved. It was Peter and his preaching and his great boldness, in the early church. God was doing some great things.

We read on down through the book of Acts, we know it was Peter that preached the gospel came to the Gentiles. What that basically means is that God gave him the authority. The key is the authority. He had the authority to open up the gospel to the Jews and to the Gentiles. We know he played a very significant part in the early church. We know that God used him and blessed him in a great way.

We know as we read the book of Peter and we read history; we know that Peter was living in a time when Nero...the Romans had begun terrible persecution against the Christians that were in Rome.

I've said this many times before. If you want to read something that is scary, read some of the books about the martyrs that were martyred and how they were martyred during that time in life. We think we are being persecuted if we only have one car in the driveway, or only 3 TV's instead of 4, or whatever. However, these folks gave their life because they loved Jesus Christ.

When you read the stories, you will find out and Peter even mentions about the fiery trials that were going to come and all that was happening. If you read this story, you will find out that Christian people were soaked and doused with flammable material. We know that they would put them on poles and set them on fire. They would light the roadways. That is how much Nero and the Romans hated the Christian people.

Peter is telling the people that persecution is here, but real persecution is going to come. He wants them to understand some things. Even though persecution was happening, and even though persecution was going to get greater and more significant and things were going to get worse and worse; he wanted them to understand who they were, and the kind of privileges that they had because of who they were.

If we are saved today, we belong to an exclusive club. Not everybody belongs to the church of Jesus Christ. When I make that statement, I'm talking about the church. I'm talking about the worldwide church of born again people from every nation, every country, whatever color you may be; we make up the church of Jesus Christ. We are a part of a very exclusive club. The only way you can get in that club is by being born again, by being spiritually born again. Because of that, because we have been born again, then we have tremendous privileges, some things that if we have been born into the family of God, there are some things that will absolutely change in our lives. Again, there are some things here we want to look at. This scripture is exciting to me to see what God's Word does, how God works things, and how He uses things that are very simple to teach us some absolute awesome lessons.

1 Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

He uses the word *wherefore* here in the first verse. He goes back; he's going back to 1 Peter 1:23. When they are talking about that they had been born again. He is writing to people who have been born again, people that has been saved. He is not writing to the world. He is not writing to those that are unsaved. He is writing to those that have been

born again. They are, and we are a part of the family of Almighty God. When you read that, he is telling them here some things that have happened.

1 Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

In other words, he is saying, since you have been born again, since you have received Jesus Christ; you are saved. You are born again. Your life has changed. Since you have been born again, then there are some things you need to lay aside. That was good 2,000 years ago. That is good today. Isn't it? When we get saved today, then there will be some things that we lay aside. The words *lay aside* means that since we have been imparted, divine nature; since God has saved us, then there are some things that will not be in our lives. In other words, there will be some things we will absolutely put away from us, if we have received divine nature, and if we have been saved, we have God's divine nature on the inside. I'm not talking about just being a church member. I'm talking about being born again. If you are actually born again, then you have the nature of Almighty God. If that is the case, then there are going to be some things we lay aside.

The folks here that Peter was writing to there were five things here—that we will talk about here very quickly because that is not the message I want to talk about—there are five things here that they needed to lay aside since they had been saved. They had been born again. They had taken on the nature of Almighty God. He is indwelling them. They have been baptized by His Spirit into the body of Christ. They have taken on His nature and since that is the case, then there were some things they needed to lay aside, or to put away, or to get away from, or to run away from.

Separation—when we get saved then we are to separate ourselves from sin. We don't do what we used to do. We don't go where we used to go. We don't talk like we used to talk. We don't do the things we used to do because we have divine nature. It is not just because we have changed on the outside. Do you know what God is doing? God is changing us on the inside. We can transform the outside. I can get on new clothes. I can get a new haircut. I can pluck my eyebrows. I can do all kinds of things on the outside that will make my appearance different. However, when God's divine nature comes on the inside then He changes us on the inside. Since we are changed on the inside then there are some things that we won't do. There are some things that we will stay away from. There are some things we will get away from.

The first thing he mentions here is *malice*. Really, what that word is any kind of wickedness. If we have divine nature, then we are not going to commit wickedness.

Someone made the statement one day. It is a very true statement. Why does a hog wallow in the mud? It is because that is its nature. That is what he does. Why does a dog bark? Because that is its nature. True! Sheep make a specific noise and all kinds of different things because that is their nature.

However, Christians we have also a divine nature and that divine nature, if we have it on the inside—do you know what we will do? We will stay away from wickedness. We will absolutely—we won't be wicked people.

Not only that but also, *guile*. *Guile* brings out the idea—the Bible says that Jesus, there was no guile found in His mouth. When you look at that it means that Jesus spoke straight from the shoulder. He spoke exactly what He meant. He meant what He said. He did not try to trick anybody or trap anybody. That is really what the word guile means. It means to trap, or try to catch sometimes with words or sometimes with actions... If we have divine nature, not only will we put away malice, but we will put away guile.

Not only that but also, *hypocrisy*. Basically, the word means to wear a mask. Jesus, if you read the Bible in Matthew 23; He looked at the religious crowd and said, "You guys are just a bunch of hypocrites." John the Baptist called them snakes and generation of vipers. It was people pretending to be religious. They were wearing a mask of religion. They were wearing a mask that they were following the God of heaven, but in reality, they were not doing that at all. He says, we don't need to be like that. We don't need to be wearing a mask. We don't need—if we have divine nature, we will be who we are, and we will know who we are. We will live right. We won't try to disguise who we are. We won't pretend to be somebody when we have divine nature on the inside. These people here, no doubt, evidently some of them were. *We won't try to impress anybody*. We won't try to be somebody that we are not. We won't be doing those things. We won't be using deception. We won't be wearing a mask. We won't be doing things to try to portray us to be somebody that we are not, if we have divine nature. I know a lot of church members is a lot of things. I know that. We know that. We know that church members say a lot of things. However, people who have divine nature, there are some lines that they won't cross. There are some things they won't do.

Peter is telling these folks that since they have divine nature; they have been born again then there are some things here they need to stay away from. It is going to play an important part, it will play an important part in our lives. The things we stay away from and the things we do not allow in our lives is going to play an important part in our lives as we go through life.

If I allow anything in my life, anything coming and going in my life; if I don't do what I need to be doing, live as I should be doing; I am going to have all kinds of things come into my life that I normally would not have if I would live right, do right and be right.

Envies. He uses the word *envies* here. It is resentment. It is looking at someone that God is blessing, and you resent that. That just makes your blood boil when you see somebody that God is blessing, whether it is financially, or spiritually, or whatever it is, and you really resent that. That is not a Christian attitude. If you resent somebody, and your life is filled with envy, then there is something wrong there. If we have divine

nature we will stay away from wickedness. We will stay away from guile. We won't be a hypocrite. We won't be doing these things here.

Not only that but also, *evil speakings*. Evil speaking means speaking down a person, slander, speaking against another. If we have divine nature, then we are not going to be doing those things. We will not be participating in those things. We will be shunning those things and running away from those things just like Job was. He was a man that feared God and eschewed evil. Do you know what that means? He feared the God of heaven and he stayed away from evil. If we have divine nature, then that is exactly what we will do. We will stay away from these sins here that Peter is writing to these folks here.

Here is the message. Here is what I want to talk about.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

“As newborn babes...” do you know what that is? Do you know what he is talking about? People that has just been born again. People that have not been saved very long. Just like a newborn baby—as I have said, and we have been taught many, many times; Christian people start out as babies. We start out just as innocent, just as helpless as a little baby. It brings out the idea here of just born. In other words, someone that has just been born. Just like a baby that has just been born. Peter knows he is writing to people who are very immature. He knows he is writing to people that has not had time to grow up and move up. Peter understands that here. He is going to use some words that I think are very important. Not only then but I think in our day and time that we live in today; some things that are going to help us in our Christian life. He speaks about newborn babes.

Do you know what a baby does? If a baby is healthy, and everything is working as it should—the Bible says this here then I will talk about that.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Do you know what a baby does? If the baby is healthy and doing what it should be doing, do you know what a baby wants to do every two or three hours? It wants to eat. A healthy baby is a hungry baby. A baby that is healthy, is going to be a baby that is going to want to eat.

The word *desire* means an intense desire, or an intense yearning.

Just like a baby, when a baby gets hungry, do you know what you are going to do? you are going to know that. Do you know how you are going to know that? Because the baby is going to let you know that. It is going to start crying. It is going to let you know that it is hungry. It has an intense desire to eat because it is healthy. A healthy baby is a baby that is hungry. A baby that is hungry is a baby that is eating and a baby that is growing. That is what this is all about here.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Now the word *sincere* is another word I want us to look at. It is a word that means unadulterated. It is a word that means it has nothing mixed in it. If you take milk and you would mix it with water or dilute it and try to feed it to your baby; I know that it may drink that, but it is not going to have a sincere desire for that. It is not going to have a desire to eat that because it is adulterated. It had something added to that.

Peter is saying here...

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

As newborn babes, desire the sincere, unadulterated, unmixed, nothing mixed in it, sincere milk of the word. Just as a baby likes, enjoys, and loves eating from its mother's breast, drinking its mother's milk; there is something in our lives if we are saved—do you know what we will do? We will have the same yearning. We will have the same intense desire as a young child has. A young child wants to eat. A young child here is hungry. He will let us know he is hungry. When he is hungry he wants to eat. You and I should be the same way if we have divine nature, we should have the same intense yearning for the Word of Almighty God. Just as a baby is hungry, and it gets hungry as it is growing as time goes on, we should be the same way. We should have a hunger for the Word of God. That is what he is saying here. Amen! It is the Word of God that is going to feed us. It is the Word of God that is going to sustain us.

A few years ago, reading our Bibles was a big thing. People read their bibles. People studied their bibles. People took time out of their day to get them a Bible and read whatever how many chapters they read. They took time to do that. People were a whole lot happier then than they are today. Do you know why? It is because they were more satisfied back then because they were eating the sincere milk of the Word. When we don't read our bibles, and when we don't expose ourselves to the Word of God, if we are eating the husks of the world then do you know what that will never do? that will never satisfy a Christian. That will never get us to the place in life that that will satisfy us if we are not eating and drinking from the sincere Word of Almighty God. You can't mix that up.

In our world today, we want to mix it up. We want to take part truths, and this and that and mix it all up together and we will take that. You can't do that. If we would mix something with our baby's milk, then do you know what happens? It is not going to grow. It is not going to develop like it should. It is not going to be satisfied. You are going to have all kinds of issues with the little baby. It is the same thing in our Christian lives.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Desire, have a yearning, have an intense yearning for the sincere unadulterated milk of the word. When he uses the word milk here we know there are some things in scriptures that have to do with things that we would deal with people that are immature or babies. When you look at this word in the Greek, it doesn't bring that out. However, it brings out the sincere word of Almighty God. Do you know what a Christian needs today? We need God's Word in our life. If we are going to grow spiritually today, then we must have the Word of Almighty God. We must eat that. I know we want to leave the Bible reading up the pastor or the church leaders or something like that. However, you have a responsibility to read your own Bible. That is where you are going to eat from. That is what is going to satisfy you. When you eat and feed a baby then burp it and get rid of the gas do you know what it does usually? It usually takes a nap. It usually rests. Doesn't it? There is nothing in a Christian's life, that will bring peace in their life and rest in their life like the Word of Almighty God. If we exclude the Word of God from our lives, and I don't care what else you do, I don't care how much you do, how much you give, how much you go; if we exclude the Word of God from our lives then there is not going to be any peace there. There is not going to be any rest there. It's not going to happen.

He says here, desire; have an intense desire, for the milk of the word. Simply put the genuine whole truth of the Bible, not mixing up with something else, not taking this part and this part and try to put them together, not doing that at all. But having, and taking, and eating the sincere milk of the Word of Almighty God. When we do that we are changed people. We live differently. We act differently. If we have divine nature, do you know what that is going to do? If we have divine nature, then we are going to have an intense desire for the Word of God. If I have and you have, and we say that we have if we have divine nature and—get this—and we are staying away from the sins that he mentioned then we will have a desire for the Word of Almighty God. Do you know what sin does in my life? Sin will get me to the place in my life that I don't want the Word of God. Sin will put me in a place in life that I don't want to read my Bible. I don't want to look into the Word of God. Do you know what the Word of God does? It shows me who I am. It tells me there is sin in my life. We should be thankful for that, but we don't want to do it. When I am practicing sin then I have no yearning for the Word of Almighty God. It is just not there. The Bible is telling us here.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

The sincere milk of the word, the sincere unadulterated word of Almighty God is what is going to grow you in your Christian life. If you want to grow and mature and to move up in your relationship with God and have God use you and bless you and be stronger, to be able to lead your family, lead your co-workers...a difference in your life; do you know what you need to do? Read your Bible. Read your Bible and stay away from sin. Do you know what God will do? God will bless you. He will grow you. Just like a baby that is eating milk that is unadulterated pure milk coming from it's mother; do you know what it will do? It will grow. It seems like they are this big today, the last time we saw Annie's

little baby, it seemed like it was this long and now it seems like she's this long. It is just because she's eating. She has yearning, a desire to eat. She is eating things that are unadulterated. She is eating things that are healthy for her. The Word of God is what will grow me and you. It will grow us spiritually.

I hope you understand that. If we have divine nature, we have been born again. We will stay away and run away from sin. We will eat the Word of Almighty God then we will mature. Amen!

A baby that eats that everything is right. That baby matures. It grows. It eats. It naps. It goes through the process and it gets up again in two or three hours later and eats. It takes a nap. It gets up again and eats. That is what you and I should be. Just like a young baby that has burning desire to eat when it's hungry, that is how we should look at the Word of Almighty God.

We look at everything else. We get excited about ballgames. We get excited about all kinds of things that is not going to change us either way. Do you know what we should be excited about? We should be excited about the Word of God. We should want to eat it every day. We should want to be nourished from it every day. If we will do that, then we will grow—it says here—thereby. No other way. If we are going to grow in our spiritual life, then there is no other way we are going to grow if we neglect or not eating the Word of Almighty God. It says here...

1 Peter 2:3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

If we are saved, we have. If you are saved tonight, born again tonight and you have divine nature; you have God's divine nature on the inside of you then you know how good and how great God really is. Don't you? If you don't know that then you have never been saved. You may be a church member, but you have never been saved. If we have divine nature here, then we have an appetite for the Word of God. We will want to eat from the Word of God and we will do that.

The word *gracious* means excellent. Since we are saved, we have been born again; do you know what we know? We know that God is great. We know that God is a very excellent God. We know that God is a very gracious God. We know that don't we. We have experienced that. It goes on and says this.

1 Peter 2:4 To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

Jesus Christ is a living stone. We know that He is the God that is alive. We know that He is. It goes on and says...

1 Peter 2:4 To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

Do you know what we know? Jesus Christ was disallowed of men. He came. They examine Him. They looked at Him. They inspected Him from top to bottom. Do you

know what they said? We don't want you as our Messiah. We don't want you as our king. They disallowed Him. They said we are not going to accept you.

1 Peter 2:4 To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

God chose Jesus Christ. He is alive. He is a living stone. He says here, chosen of God and precious.

Here is what I want to talk about.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is a living stone. We know that. Jesus Christ is alive. He is alive. Get this. Since we are saved, we have taken on His nature—get this—so since He is alive, we are alive. Does everybody get that? If we have been saved and been born again, Jesus Christ is the living stone; we take on His nature so therefore, we are alive.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Everyone of us are lively stones. He is comparing us to the building of the church, to building a building. We are all living stones. We are not dead stones. People that are saved, born again have divine nature on the inside then we are living stones. Each one of us, we have our own spot. We have our own place. We are in the family. We are in the building where God has placed us at, but we are stones that are alive. We forget that sometimes. We forget that we all are part of one body. It may scatter across and does scatter across this world, but we are all part of one body. We are stone that are alive. We are building a spiritual house. God is building a spiritual house.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Holy priesthood. Get this. To offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. As I read this and thought about this, the priest in the Old Testament would take the offerings. He offered all kinds of offerings every day. Many hours of the day. He would take the offerings that had been looked at and inspected...was something that he knew God would accept. Do you know what he did? He took that and carried that. There was a little bit of an incline. In going up to the brazen altar where he was going to take this sacrifice and lay it there was a ladder. As I read today, if this is right, this ladder was about 4 ½ feet tall. He had to walk up this ladder to lay this offering on the brazen altar. This is where the offering was going to be offered to God. When He offered the offering that he knew in the law God demanded and He said He would accept. He would take the offering there and offer it on that altar. God would accept it. It would be burnt. The offering was made. God would accept the offering that the priest had offered up. Do you get that?

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood,

to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

He says here, to offer up. Do you know what that means? To carry. To lift up. Not something that is dead. Not a dead sacrifice but a living sacrifice. Spiritual sacrifices. Things that are spiritual. Do you know what God wants us to do? Just like the priest, when he would take the offering and inspect it. he would make sure that when he looked every place on the offering that he was offering to make sure that there was not one thing that was going to hinder God from accepting that.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

We are to be people that are holy or different. We are to offer up spiritual sacrifices. Do you know what we should be doing, just like the priests did? We should be offering up spiritual sacrifices and we can do that when *inspect* the offering. He tells in verse 1, about some things we need to stay away from and sin we need to stay away from. Do you know what Peter knew? There would be things that would keep us from offering spiritual sacrifices to God.

Today, it is a great way to life; get this—when we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we have divine nature and we know what we are offering or going to lift up to God, we know that He is going to accept because we know who we are. Amen! We know who we are. We know we are not we are not participating in sin. We know that our conscious is not defiled before Almighty God. We know that we owe nobody an apology. We know who we are, and we have inspected our lives and we search us and we ask God to search us. We know who we are then we can carry up or offer up ourselves as a spiritual sacrifice unto Almighty God.

Do you know what that includes? It has to do with obedience. It has to do with doing what is right. It has to do with living the right kind of life. It has to do with being clean on the inside. It has to do with a lot of different things like that. What are we offering God? That is the whole thought here. I know I have mumbled around for 30 minutes to get there, but what are we offering to God?

What kind of sacrifices are we offering to God?

You see, the priest in the Old Testament; if he did not offer the right kind of sacrifice, if he would offer a lame animal, or something that had some kind of a defect in it—do you know what happened? God did not accept it. It wasn't the best. Sometimes people would do that. People would bring their rejects and things they did not really want for themselves. They would bring that and try to offer it to God back then.

Do you know what we do today, I think, sometimes? We do the same thing. We want to offer God second best. God I'm busy. I have this going on. Lord, you know how busy I am, Lord. What we lift up or what we bring to Him, a lot of times they are things that He is not going to accept. Do you know why? It is because this guy, talking about me, this guy and you too; we must be what God expects us to be when we offer up things unto God that we want God to accept and we want to be able to exalt Him and

praise His name for what we offer then we must be right with Him. We must live right. We must be right. We must live that kind of a life. If we don't do that and we just offer God the second best, and we offer God what is left over; folks you don't get anywhere with God. I don't care who we are. I don't care what position we hold. If we think that God is going to accept second best from us, or what is lame in or lives; God is not going to do that. It is a great way to live. When we know that what we are offering to God, He is going to accept. That is a great place to be. There is nothing like living that way. To know that what you are offering to God, what you are carrying and offering to God; you know that God is going to accept that. You know who you are. You know how you are living. You are not playing any games with yourself. You have looked at yourself in the Word of God. It shows us who we are. We clean up what we need to clean up then we come and offer it to God. Do you know what God does? When we do that God will accept our spiritual sacrifices. Do you know what God will do? He will show up when you are washing dishes. He will show up at your home when you are washing dishes, maybe shoveling snow, maybe washing the car, or maybe cleaning out the barn. Maybe playing with the kids. Maybe driving down the road. God will just show up.

Do you know why? Because you have offered Him spiritual sacrifices that He is pleased with. The offering in the old testament had to be something that He was pleased with and when God was pleased with it then the offering was accepted by Almighty God. God would forgive, and God would bless, and things were fine. It hasn't changed any folks. We can't give God the second best. We can't give God what is left over. We can't give God nothing like that. God expects the very best from me and you. He expects us to live a life of obedience, soundness, honesty, to live a life to where our lives, as we walk through our life; we can lift our hands and worship and praise the God of heaven. When we do that it is a great place to be.

Come and pray—