

**The Earthly Function
of NT Priests**
In our NT Temple in Heaven
(continued)

Scripture Reading:
Hebrews 13:10-16

INTRODUCTION

ALL NT grace-believers are pictured by God as a Temple in Christ. Each believer is pictured as a living stone that makes up this temple and is also seen by God as a priest in the temple, making six spiritual sacrifices here on Earth – Eph 2:20-22, I Pet 2:5

Hebrews 13:15-16

¹⁵ By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

¹⁶ But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Heb 13:15-16 tells us that these sacrifices should be made continually and not be forgotten

Some things should be forgotten – Phil 3:13

Some things will be forgotten – Isa 65:17

Some things should never be forgotten

- that we've been cleansed from sin - II Pet 1:9

- to keep performing our 6 spiritual sacrifices –

Heb 13:15-16

REVIEW OF FIRST FOUR SACRIFICES

1) Sacrifice of **your physical body** = Lordship

- Rom 12:1-2

2) Sacrifice of your **faith** - Phil 2:17, 4:13

exercising Holy Spirit produced faith to all promises
and instructions that God has given the NT grace-
believer

RECAP OF FIRST FOUR SACRIFICES

3) Sacrifice of **giving** your material resources –
Phil 4:18, II Cor 9:7, cf I Jn 3:16-18

4) **Sacrifice of praise** – Heb 13:15

- * praise is appreciation for the aspect(s) of God's character that provided the benefit

- * thanksgiving is appreciation for the benefit received

- * OT example: Ps 48:10; NT example: Lk 18:35-43

The Sacrifice of Doing Good (Hebrews 13:16)

Purpose:

- 1) to and for God's glory
- 2) to and for the person receiving the benefit – Eph 2:10
 - * works that God has planned
 - * good (beneficial) works

Problem for accomplishing good works:

the sin nature – Rom 7:21

The Sacrifice of Doing Good

(Hebrews 13:16) *continued*

Examples of good works:

- 1) giving aid and effort to believers in need – I Jn 3:16-18, James 1:27
- 2) employee's service to employers – I Tim 6:1-2
- 3) paying proper attention to prophecy – II Pet 1:19
- 4) doing ANY activity in a proper manner – I Cor 10:31

THE SACRIFICE OF FELLOWSHIP (Hebrews 13:16)

- Sharing in common your salvation with other believers while spiritual. Examples:

Share in all 3 tenses of salvation – I Jn 1:3

Share in common of ministry - cf Phil 4:15

Share in common with the triune Godhead:

God the Holy Spirit – I Cor 13:14, I Jn 2:20,27

God the Son – Phil 3:10

God the Father – I Jn 1:7 by walking more consistently in the Light (Eternal Life in activity)

CONCLUSION

Israel Had a priesthood

The Church IS a priesthood

Israel Had a temple

The Church IS the temple of God

Israel offered animal sacrifices

The Church offers spiritual sacrifices

CONCLUSION

As we continue to offer these six spiritual NT sacrifices to God, we are making the NT temple more habitable for God to settle down

“... in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit” Eph 2:22