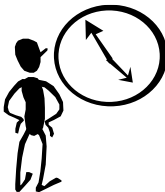


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Time of Assembly



Sunday:	
Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.
	(Or every other week)
Bible Study	4:00 p.m.
Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday:	
Bible Study	7:00 p. m.

Sacrifice and Drink Offering

By Doy Moyer

After Paul encouraged the brethren to do all things without grumbling or disputing so that they could be lights in a dark world, he also wanted to have confidence that, in his own influence, he did not run or toil in vain (Philippians 2:16). He then made this statement using a metaphor for sacrifice:

“But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all” (Philippians 2:17).

This is not the only time he used the picture of a drink offering to express the nature of his sacrificial service. He later told Timothy, *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come”* (II Timothy 4:6). He had confidence that he had fought the good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith. With unquestioned faithfulness, he poured himself out as a drink offering in service to the Lord and others.

To the Corinthians, Paul wrote, *“I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls”* (II Corinthians 12:14-15). The sacrifice of self for the sake of others, as a parent does for children, is a hallmark of Paul’s service in Christ.

The drink offering (libation) is found in the Law. Usually, it was a wine that would be poured out upon an altar or object of worship during a cultic ceremony. Jacob made an altar and poured out wine and oil on it (Genesis 35:14). The Law gave instructions for drink offerings on various occasions in conjunction with other sacrifices like burnt offerings where the quantity was in proportion to the size of the animal (Exodus 29:38-41; Leviticus 23:13; Numbers 28:7,14-

15; 15:3-10). Sadly, drink offerings also came to be associated with idolatrous practices (Jeremiah 7:18). The point, however, was to express complete devotion to the one who is being worshipped.

The concept of pouring out was also used of the Suffering Servant, Jesus Christ. Isaiah 53:12 prophetically says that the Servant “poured out Himself to death and was numbered with the transgressors.” This connects to the description Paul gave in Philippians 2:7-8 that Christ “emptied himself” to the point of death. Christ completely gave himself up in service to the Father and for the sake of all others. Part of the point Paul is making is that Christians need to seek this same mindset (Philippians 2:5), doing nothing out of selfish ambition but treating others as more important than self (Philippians 2:3-4). As Christ poured himself out, so must we seek to do the same.

We should not be surprised, then, when Paul uses the libation metaphor later in the same chapter. He was following the example of Christ, and in so doing he was being poured out (emptying self) as a drink offering “*upon the sacrifice and service of your faith.*” Paul demonstrated the mind of Christ in his own work for the Lord.

Christians ought to understand the significance of sacrifice in Christ. We are a royal and holy priesthood who are intended “*to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*” (1 Peter 2:5, 9). Paul also wrote, “*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship*” (Romans 12:1-2). While various sacrifices were given under the Law, the point is that Christians themselves are both the priesthood and the sacrifices, just as Jesus is both the High Priest and the sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 8-10).

Paul’s commitment to the Lord as a drink offering illustrates the extent of his sacrificial service. Faithfulness to the Lord is not to be partial or haphazard. Sacrifice is never convenient or based on whims that people think they can afford as a leftover in life.

In some ways, it is difficult for us to understand this level of commitment. Many of us have been raised in a culture of ease and wealth, but Paul reminds us of how important it is to lay aside the worldly in order to sacrifice for the eternal. This requires daily choices, daily commitment, daily self-denial, and taking up the cross in order to follow Jesus (Luke 9:23). In doing this, Paul found true joy, and he indicates that others can share in the joy if they follow this example.

“*But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me*” (Philippians 2:17-18).

The Corinthians' Error on Baptism

By Perry Hall

"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel"
(I Corinthians 1:17 CSB).

When people today use this passage to discredit the place and importance of baptism, ironically they make the same mistake as the Corinthians but for a different reason.

Paul's actual defense of baptism shows that the Corinthians had placed who baptized them above their baptism. They placed what man was doing above what God was doing in their baptism (I Corinthians 12:13). That's why, ironically, Paul is thankful he had not baptized many:

"I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say you were baptized in my name. I did, in fact, baptize the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't recall if I baptized anyone else" (I Corinthians 1:14-16 CSB).

The Corinthians mistake is downplaying the importance of baptism by emphasizing what is not important - the preacher who baptized them. Paul is thankful his lack of physically putting people under the water did not contribute to their division. Again, ironically, what should have united them, divided them (I Corinthians 12:13).

But notice what is implicit in how important baptism should have been to the Corinthians:

"What I am saying is this: One of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in Paul's name?" (I Corinthians 1:12-13 CSB)

If they are dividing into groups based upon who baptized them ... **then every one of them had been baptized!**

Today, people still downplay baptism, even if they are baptized, but for a different reason. Is it because they are putting preachers above baptism? Sadly, that answer is still yes. So this downplaying is not being done in the same way as the Corinthians who were obviously all baptized.

Then how are people today diminishing baptism by emphasizing preachers? The answer is found in putting more emphasis on what uninspired preachers say than what is written by inspired preachers in the Bible.

Anytime preachers are put above baptism, in some form or fashion, the Corinthian error is committed.

Evangelism Motivators

By Jefferson David Tant
Adapted from Clarence Fell

Evangelism is essential for growth. If we don't do the work then no work gets done. Unfortunately, our attitude is not always good toward evangelism. We get tired and discouraged because we see little success in our efforts. Then the devil steps in and starts whispering, "What's the use? No one wants to hear the Bible anymore." Tired and discouraged, we are tempted to agree. We start trying to convince ourselves that we can evangelize by example from now on. Many of us have felt something like this at one time or another. Not even elders, deacons, teachers, and preachers are immune. Therefore, having faced the temptation myself, I made up a list of motivators to help adjust an improper attitude. I trust you will find some encouragement in the following points:

- ◆ You can't lose them all. The law of averages guarantees you will win some sooner or later. Hang in there and stick with it ([Hebrews 3:14](#)). At any given time, one percent or more of your area is interested in the Bible ([Ecclesiastes 3:11](#)). Fish until you find them.
- ◆ When digging for diamonds you have to go through a lot of dirt. The same is true when searching for honest hearts ([Matthew 7:13-14](#)). Sincere efforts in evangelism pleases God even if we don't change the world by our efforts ([II Timothy 4:1-5](#)).
- ◆ There is no set quota that you must fill. God simply requires that you keep trying ([Revelation 2:10](#)). Eventually, you'll lead someone to Jesus. Not even Jesus had a complete success rate so why should we expect to convert everyone we approach ([Mark 10:17-22](#))?
- ◆ Facing the challenge of evangelism shows maturity. Avoiding the challenge indicates immaturity ([Hebrews 5:12-14](#)). Doing what you can in evangelism shows you care for the lost. Talk is cheap and actions do speak louder than words ([James 2:14-26](#)).
- ◆ Doing what you are able to do in evangelism shows you understand God's desire for Christians to use their talents ([Matthew 25:14-30](#)). Doing what we are able to do in evangelism shows we care for the local church ([I John 2:3-6](#)).
- ◆ The few (or many) successes you have will be worth all the effort. They will be the most valuable successes of your life ([Matthew 16:26](#)). You can't catch fish if you don't keep your bait in the water. Be a persistent fisherman ([Matthew 4:18-20](#)). You're not a loser until you quit.
- ◆ Persistence will pay off ([Matthew 10:22](#); [Acts 18:4](#); [19:8-10](#)). Every effort when viewed in retrospect will teach you something and move you further up the ladder of maturity ([Hebrews 5:14](#)).

- ◆ It is not your responsibility to convert the entire world, but rather to make an honest and continuous effort in your area ([Mark 5:18-20](#)). There is life for the evangelism worker after a “No.” ([Luke 9:5-6](#)).
- ◆ Becoming proficient in evangelism is a great challenge. Few exercise the self-discipline necessary ([I Corinthians 9:27](#)). Will you be one of them? What better way to express your love and appreciation to God and others than through personal evangelism ([John 15:14](#); [II Corinthians 5:14](#))?
- ◆ Success in evangelism is one of the greatest feelings on earth. It’s great to fall asleep with a smile on your face ([Galatians 6:4](#)). Doing evangelism is active involvement. It’s not being a spectator or bystander. It is making a difference and having a purpose ([Matthew 12:30](#)).
- ◆ It is my legal, constitutional, and God-given right to approach anyone in a polite manner and endeavor to interest him in the Bible ([Romans 13:1-7](#)).
- ◆ Eternity is in the heart of every man ([Ecclesiastes 3:11](#)). It may be buried deep, but it exists and we can appeal to it. Set a good example for the congregation ([Matthew 5:16](#); [Titus 2:7-8](#)).
- ◆ Our job is not just to hold the fort but to also storm the heights ([Jude 3](#)). The world is seeking someone to follow and will follow someone. Will it be Jesus or Satan ([Matthew 9:35-38](#))?
- ◆ People are hungry for a better way of life. Show them the better way that Jesus offers ([John 10: 8-11](#)). Faith is a natural part of man. He believes in many things, and he can also believe in God if he chooses to do so ([John 20:30-31](#)).
- ◆ Satan cannot stop you ([Romans 8:31-39](#)). Let’s face it, there is no magic formula; if the church is going to grow we must work ([Romans 10:14-15](#)). Nothing worthwhile is ever easy ([II Timothy 2:3](#)).
- ◆ If one idea doesn’t work, try another one. Never quit ([Galatians 6:9](#)). Today is a new day. Forget yesterday’s failures ([Philippians 3:12-16](#)).
- ◆ God doesn’t reward laziness; He does reward diligence ([Hebrews 11:6](#)). Personal work is like swimming in cold water. You’re uncomfortable at first but after a while, you don’t want to get out ([Acts 8:14](#)).
- ◆ When you evangelize you are part of the solution. When you don’t, you’re part of the problem ([Matthew 12:30](#)). Even if you are on the right track you’ll still get run over if you just sit there ([Revelation 3:15-16](#)). Christianity is a race ([Hebrews 12:1](#)).
- ◆ Jesus died so we can have salvation ([II Corinthians 5:14](#)). Don’t sit idle!

One or more of these thoughts will help you when facing discouragement. Keep the list handy and when you start getting discouraged refer to it and adjust your attitude before the problem becomes too serious ([Revelation 3:15-16](#)).