

SACRIFICES THAT PLEASE GOD

Hebrews 13:9-16, p. 976

- I. BEWARE OF WRONG TEACHING ABOUT RITUALS OR RULES THAT HAVE NO TRUE VALUE (HEBREWS 13:9-14).
 - A. Be strengthened by grace: Don't assume religious rules or convictions make you holy (9-10).
 1. We are strengthened by the grace of Christ, not ceremonial laws (food scruples) with no spiritual value (9).
 2. Our altar is the sacrifice of Jesus who now gives us spiritual strength and guidance priests cannot give (10).
 - B. Be holy, not religious: Abandon systems of religious rules to focus on Jesus and His grace (13:11-14).
 1. On Atonement Day priests discarded bodies of goats and bulls outside camp as cleansing from sin (11; Lev. 16:27).
 2. Jesus' body was disgraced on the cross outside Jerusalem which is how we are forgiven and made holy (12).
 3. We must follow Jesus personally, even if others disgrace us for not meeting their religious expectations (13).
 4. We now must focus on holiness and eternal values (14).
- II. THROUGH JESUS WE NOW BRING GOD SACRIFICES OF PRAISE AND SERVICE (HEBREWS 13:15-16).
 - A. Through Jesus, we now bring the sacrifice of worship – praising God sincerely and audibly (15; Eph. 5:19-22; Col. 3:16-17).

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- B. Through Jesus, we now please God by sacrificially serving others and giving financially (16).