

Acceptable Worship

Joh 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe Me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, **when the true worshippers** shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship *Him* in **spirit** and in **truth**. 25 The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when He is come, He will tell us all things. 26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee Am *He*. (*Emp. added*)

Worshipping According to Truth

There is a pattern to be adhered to when we consider worshipping God according to truth. We have been given specific instructions when it comes to worshipping God in a way that is acceptable to Him. The New Testament pattern emulates the Old.

Old/ New Testament Patterns: Priesthood

Exo 19:6 And ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of **priests**, and an **holy nation**. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (*Emp. added*)

As the physical/spiritual kingdom of the Lord on earth, the Israelites were also to be His priests, meaning they were to worship God according to the Divine pattern. Likewise His priests today are to worship Him according to the New Testament pattern given by revelation from God.

1Pe 2:5 Ye (*Christians; "the Israel of God"- Gal 6:16*) also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an **holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (*Emp. added*)

Altar of Burnt Sacrifice/Living Sacrifice

Lev 6:24 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 25 Speak unto Aaron and to his sons, saying, This is the law of the sin offering: In the place where the **burnt offering is killed** shall the **sin offering be killed** before the LORD: it is most holy. 26 The priest that offereth it **for sin** shall eat it: in the holy place shall it be eaten, in the court of the tabernacle of the congregation. (*Emp. added*)

As the priesthood under the New Covenant, our sacrifices are not according to the animal sacrifices offered under the Old. Theirs were physical, ours are spiritual.

Heb 9:23 *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with **better sacrifices** than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places **made with hands**, *which are* the **figures of the true** (*the physical throne room of God on earth*); but into Heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25 Nor yet that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place **every year with blood of others**; 26 For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the **sacrifice of Himself**. (*Our High Priest went in to the Most Holy with His own blood.*) 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to

die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time **without sin unto salvation**. *(Emp. added)*

“So, like all men, He had to die once and face the consequences of sin. Of course, the sin He bore was not His own. “Appointed” means “reserved for,” or “laid up.” Jesus came as a sin bearer, or sin offering, the first time, but He will not do so the second time.”

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Heb 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. 3 But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. 4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

1Co 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is **sacrificed for us**: *(Emp. added)*

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service *(Gk.2999- ministration of God, that is, worship)*. *(Emp. added)*

Just as the Israelites through the Levitical tribe offered up their animal sacrifices under the Old Covenant continually, so we, as New Covenant Israel, offer our sacrifices of praise through Jesus our Lord.

Heb 13:15 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 *(Gk.3686- authority)*. *(Emp. added)*

The Tabernacle/The Church

Heb 9:1 Then verily the first *covenant* **had also ordinances of divine service**, and a **worldly** sanctuary. *(Emp. added)*

Exo 25:8 And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. 9 According to all that I shew thee, *after* the **pattern of the tabernacle**, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, **even so shall ye make it**. *(Emp. added)*

Moses was given a specific pattern to go by when constructing the tabernacle which would serve as a shadow of the “true tabernacle”, the church. The Old tabernacle, which was a physical structure, was pitched by the Levites. The New tabernacle was pitched by God.

Heb 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an High Priest, Who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A Minister of the sanctuary, and of the **true tabernacle**, which the Lord pitched, and not man. *(Emp. added)*

There are qualifications necessary to be heeded in order to enter either tabernacle which were both patterned by God and not man.

Laver/Baptism

Lev 16:4 He (*the Levite who qualifies for the priesthood*) shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these *are* holy garments; therefore **shall he wash** (*Heb.7364- lave*) **his flesh in water, and so (then) put them on.** (*Emp. added*)

The one thing that separated Moses, Aaron and the priests from entering the Holy Place was the laver. As in the church, we cannot be added to her unless we've been washed.

Act 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. **41** Then they that gladly received his word were **baptized**: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. (*Emp. added*)

Act 2:47 ... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Once in the tabernacle/church the priests (*under both covenants*) were/are to perform their spiritual worship set within the parameters given by God.

Lampstand/Bible study.

Exo 27:20 And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always. **21** In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from **evening to morning** before the LORD: *it shall be* a statute forever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel. (*Emp. added*)

Just as the lampstand was the only light within the tabernacle to light the way for the priests to perform their duty within, so the Bible, God's word, is our only source of enlightenment to give us instructions on our worship in the church today. One act of worship in our priestly function within the church then is Bible study and instruction through teaching and preaching.

Psa 119:105 NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

1Ti 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to **reading**, to **exhortation**, to **doctrine**. (*Emp. added*)

Music

This was to be a function of the priests of both testaments.

2Ch 29:25 And he set the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for *so was* the commandment of the LORD by His prophets.

Specifics were given in both covenants for the type of music required under each. Since we wouldn't mix the two testaments when we offer up sacrifices of praise with animal sacrifices today, why would we want to do what is not authorized when it comes to acceptable music? Why would we want to mix mechanical instruments of the Old Testament with what we've been commanded, the use of only our voices, in the New?

Eph 5:19 **Speaking** to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and **making melody in your heart** to the Lord; (*Emp. added*)

Col 3:16 Let **the word of Christ** dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (*Emp. added*)

When playing in an orchestra, the musicians do their best to please the audience by giving them what they desire to hear. Since in worship, God **IS** our audience, wouldn't we want to give Him what He expects to hear from us, His orchestra? Our music was never meant to be entertaining toward each other as much as it is understood to be a praise to God.

O.T. Tithe vs. N.T. Collection

Neh 10:38 And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house.

Obviously, we are no longer under the Old Testament system of tithing. Another act of spiritual worship for the church is to give as we have prospered.

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Altar of Burnt Incense, the type of Prayer

Exo 30:1 And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: *of* shittim wood shalt thou make it.

Exo 30:6 And thou shalt put it before the vail that *is* by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that *is* over the testimony, where I will meet with thee. 7 And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense **every morning**: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. 8 And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a **perpetual incense** before the LORD throughout your generations. 9 Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon. (*Emp. added*)

*Luk 18:1 And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought **always** to pray, and not to faint;*

Lev 16:12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar (*of burnt sacrifice*) before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring *it* within the vail: 13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that *is* upon the testimony, that he die not:

Part of acceptable worship is to follow the instructions to the tee. Here the priest, who offered up the incense, retrieved the coals from the altar of burnt sacrifice. Our prayers are only acceptable as we live a life of sacrifice to God.

Rev 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him **much incense**, that he should offer *it* **with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne**. 4 And the smoke of the incense, *which came* **with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God** out of the angel's hand. (*Emp. added*)

1Ti 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;

Today, our prayers are a type of incense. As they enter the throne room of God, Heaven, they must first pass through the veil, Jesus.

Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through **the veil**, that is to say, **His flesh**; (*Emp. added*)

Table of Shewbread, the shadow of The Lord's supper.

Lev 24:5 And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. 6 And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD.

Lev 24:8 Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, *being taken* from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. 9 And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it *is* most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute.

Only the Levites were to partake of the shewbread inside the Holy Place on the sabbath and then replace it with 12 newly baked loaves, one representing each of the tribes of Israel. As the New Covenant priests we share in the Lord's table through communion on the first day of each and every week.

Act 20:7 And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together **to break bread**, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. (*Emp. added*)

1Co 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread: 24 And when He had given thanks, He brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me. 25 After the same manner also *He took* the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the **new testament in My blood**: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of Me. (*Emp. added*)

The Difference

Heb 7:12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. 13 For He of Whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe (*Judah*), of which no man gave attendance at the altar. 14 For *it is* evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

Heb 8:3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore *it is* of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. 4 For if He were on earth, He should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the Law: 5 Who serve unto the **example** and **shadow** of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith He, *that* thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. 6 But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7 For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8 For finding fault with them (*Israel*), He saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in My covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. (*Emp. added*)

Heb 8:13 In that He saith, A new *covenant*, He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready (*70 AD*) to vanish away. (*That covenant ended when the O.T. law was nailed to Jesus' cross.- Col 2:14*)

No longer under the Old Covenant we are to worship according to the pattern of the New. Since God is our audience, let's do our best to please Him.

Heb 12:28 Wherefore we (*are presently*) receiving (*Gk.3880- Thayer: to receive something transmitted*) a kingdom (*church*) which cannot be moved (*Gk.761- unshaken*), let us have grace, whereby we may **serve God acceptably** with **reverence** and **godly fear**: 29 For our God is a consuming fire. (*Emp. added*)

In order to worship God as a New Covenant priest ("*male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*"- Gal 3:28) we must all follow the pattern given by God as He did in the Old Covenant. Before entering the tabernacle the Levites were to wash. In order to enter the spiritual tabernacle of today (*a.k.a. the church*), a person has to be cleansed of all sin having given up their old way. Only then will God add us to His church.

#1.Have you heard?

Eph 1:13 In Whom ye also *trusted*, **after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation**: in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (*Emp. added*)

#2.Do you believe?

1Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received** the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that **believe**. (*Emp. added*)

#3.Have you repented?

Mar 2:17 ...They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

#4.Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God, Who alone can save you?

Act 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (*Emp. added*)

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

#7. Are you growing?

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

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