

IMMANUELITE

July 2019

Pastor John Sharp

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The Lord called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the Lord, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock. If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, *that he may be accepted before the Lord*. He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and *it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him*. Then he shall kill the bull before the Lord, and Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. Then he shall flay the burnt offering and cut it into pieces, and the sons of Aaron the priest shall put the fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. And Aaron's sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, the head, and the fat, on the wood that is on the fire on the altar; but its entrails and its legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering *with a pleasing aroma to the Lord*. -Leviticus 1:1-9

It is with these words that the Book of Leviticus in the Bible makes its beginning. I

would remind those reading this that as a part of the Bible Leviticus is the Word of God. Sometimes I get comments from some folks which leads me to believe that you do not think it is God's Word, but it is. That means that we have to take these words seriously. This is not simply ancient sacrificial practice. The question is not, "Why are they doing this?" The question is, "Why did God command it?"

The answer is in the passage above. First of all, the person who makes this sacrifice does so in order to be accepted before the Lord. This gives Israel in the Old Testament a means by which God accepts them. Second, the sacrifice is to make atonement for the person making the sacrifice. When atonement is made for a person, that person's sins are forgiven. Therefore this sacrifice is a means by which Israel's sins were forgiven. Finally, it produces a pleasing aroma to the Lord. The Hebrew word translated "pleasing" can also be rendered "soothing." It is a soothing aroma to the Lord. This means first of all that the Lord is in need of soothing and secondly that an Israelite worshipper can sooth the Lord by making the sacrifice.

Therefore in the Old Testament God gave Israel sacrifices to make, so that the nation and individual Israelites within the nation would be acceptable to God, forgiven by Him, and they would be able to sooth God's wrath.

Consider this from later in Leviticus: "If the whole congregation of Israel sins unintentionally, and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the assembly, and they do any one

of the things that by the Lord's commandments ought not to be done, and they realize their guilt, when the sin which they have committed becomes known, the assembly shall offer a bull from the herd for a sin offering and bring it in front of the tent of meeting. And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands on the head of the bull before the Lord, and the bull shall be killed before the Lord. Then the anointed priest shall bring some of the blood of the bull into the tent of meeting, and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times before the Lord in front of the veil. And he shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar that is in the tent of meeting before the Lord, and the rest of the blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. And all its fat he shall take from it and burn on the altar. Thus shall he do with the bull. As he did with the bull of the sin offering, so shall he do with this. *And the priest shall make atonement for them, and they shall be forgiven.* And he shall carry the bull outside the camp and burn it up as he burned the first bull; it is the sin offering for the assembly." 4:13-21

Again, sacrifice and the shedding of blood bring about the forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22).

The crucifixion of Jesus fulfills these and the other sacrifices that God commanded in Leviticus. Consider the following passages of Holy Scripture:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom *God put forward as a propitiation by His blood*, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. –Romans 3:23-25

Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, *to make propitiation for the sins of the people.* –Hebrews 2:17

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. *He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.* -1John 2:1-2

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the *propitiation for our sins.* -1John 4:10

In each of these passages Jesus is the propitiation that takes away our sin. The Word propitiation here refers to the crucifixion of Jesus when He shed His blood that atones for our sin and makes us acceptable to God. The book of Hebrews asserts it strongly this way: "For since the law is but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshippers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sin? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. –Hebrews 10:1-4

Hebrews says this from the point of view of the fulfillment. Our Lord fulfills the sacrifices so completely that they have stopped being offered. However, the book of Leviticus still stands for the Old Testament. The sacrifices were Israel's means of obtaining forgiveness. They worked because God said it would and because they were shadows of the coming sacrifice of Jesus.

This is why we no longer offer sacrifices of animals. To do so would insult the dignity of Christ's sacrifice. Plus when the reality is here, why deal with the shadows?

Because of Jesus,
Pastor



G.R.O.W, a Christian ecumenical men's group in the Newman/Broadlands area, will meet Sunday, July 7 at Broadlands Community. All interested Christian men in the area are invited to attend the meeting, which begins with breakfast at 7:00 am, and includes a devotion and a spiritually uplifting topic or speaker each month. There is no charge for the meeting, although opportunity is given for a free-will offering, which is used in various ways to serve others in the community and beyond.



The Knitting Group will meet Monday, July 15 at 1:30 pm. Please join us and help make blankets.



The Sewing Ladies meet the first Monday of each month. They enjoy sewing and sharing a wonderful lunch together. This month, they will meet Monday, July 1 at 9:00 am.



Quarterly Voters Meeting is Sunday, July 28 at 10:15 am. We recommend that all voting members attend.

Rally Day will be August 18.

Special Dates:

Thursday, July 4: Independence Day (Office will be closed)



Sunday, July 7: Building Fund II

This is our second of four Building Fund offerings. This money is used towards repairs and maintenance for the church building. Please use the "Building Fund" envelopes, and be sure to write your number in the memo.



There will be no blood pressure screening this month.



Immanuelite deadline for August is Friday, July 26.



Adele Ayden Long was baptized on Sunday, June 2, 2019. Adele was born on April 5, 2019 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, IL. Her parents are Wayne and Casey Long. Her sponsors were Mindy Brown and Robert Benschneider.



A special thanks to Robert Benschneider, Mark Luedke, and John Rothermel for placing the drape on the cross from Lent season to Pentecost.



Pastor will be gone on vacation, Friday, July 5, through, Monday, July 8. Pastor Don Ehlers will handle pastoral emergencies, (217)840-8711. Pastor Jaya Bijjiga will preside at Divine Service on July 7.

Pastor will also be gone, Thursday, July 11, through, Monday, July 15 for National Youth Gathering. Pastor Don Ehlers will preside at Divine Service on July 14.



The new directory will be ready by the end of this month. I will leave them in the narthex next to the bulletins for you to pick up. If anyone would like to have one mailed, please let me know.

Thank you, Crystal Ball



- 1 Kerrylynne Humphrey
Damien Budde
Ezra Orwick
- 2 Matthew Schweineke
Moses Place
Elijah Orwick
- 3 Stephen Smith
- 4 Deana Wolf
- 5 Julie Beck
William Hopkins
Robert Goetting
- 6 Nora Slater
- 7 Sara Taylor
- 9 Phil Wiese
- 10 Jeffrey Wright
- 11 Ann Luth
Craig Negangard
- 12 Glenna Boyd
Mark Luedke
Rick Snider
- 17 Mindy Luth
- 18 Christopher Renfrow
- 20 Shelby Corray
Cody Reed
- 22 Stuart Wolf
Ian Orwick
Zoe Goetting
- 24 Jacob Naese
Constance Herriott
- 26 Steven Block
Linda Campbell
Barbara Gerdes
Allison Smith
- 27 Helen (Eugene) Luth
- 28 Cameron Finn
Hillary Wienke
- 29 Siv Schwink
- 30 George Gruschow



Dear Family and Friends,

BRING THE BODY AND THE MIND WILL FOLLOW

There's an old saying among participants of self-help groups: "Bring the body, and the mind will follow." If you're coming up short on motivation to participate in a recommended counseling or treatment program, consider this simple behavioral principle of cause and effect. You don't have to wait until you feel motivated to begin taking care of yourself. You can begin now and feel motivated later! The simplest example of this principle in action is when you lack enthusiasm to exercise, but after you do so anyway, you feel surprisingly glad you did and motivated to continue.

STAYING POSITIVE IN A CRISIS A crisis is an unexpected event or situation requiring a decision point, while an emergency presents immediate risk to life or property. During a crisis, resist the impulse to panic, conjure up the worst-case scenario, and engage in "awfulizing" (or catastrophizing). This rush to fear and dread is driven by not knowing what will happen next. (It's this not knowing that aggravates the stress response.) Churning with fear undermines resilience and decreases your ability to solve problems, remain productive, and model optimism to others. With this in mind, recognize that imagined worst-case scenarios rarely follow crises, and when they do, they are almost always more manageable than first imagined. Counter crisis stress with sleep, proper nutrition, appropriate exercise, and relaxation and other mindfulness activities. Avoid reaching for drugs, alcohol, or comfort foods to gain relief. Reaching for substances can inhibit effective and timely decisions you need to make that will resolve crises faster and more successfully. Instead, take advantage of support resources. An EAP or a trained and supportive listener can offer guidance to help you with decisions, uncover options, and keep you grounded with a reality check.

YOU CAN OVERCOME INDECISIVENESS Everyone occasionally struggles with making a decision, but does indecisiveness feel like a frequent problem for you that's interfering with your happiness? Meet with your employee assistance program or a

counseling professional in your community to fight to overcome this "paralysis by analysis." Making decisions is a life skill that's teachable and involves comparing the outcomes and impact of choices while paying close attention to your emotions and the sway of feelings in your decision. With counseling, you can learn to make decisions more quickly by reducing overanalyzing, visualizing possible outcomes, trusting yourself more, and knowing that you are making the right choices. A counselor can help you understand how a pattern of indecisiveness developed, examine whether depression contributes to it, and decide what further assistance could be helpful. Don't let indecisiveness remain a problem that causes you to lose faith in your own judgment and prevents you from attaining what life has to offer. Learn more: <http://legacyproject.human.cornell.edu> [search: worry waste].

TEAM WITH YOUR DOCTOR TO FIGHT DEPRESSION

Some patients with depression participate in psychotherapy, some use medication, and some do both. No matter what treatment path you take, discuss with your therapist or medical doctor practical steps you can take on your own to supplement your therapy goals. Supplemental activities depressed patients claim bring significant improvement include finding a passionate pursuit (hobby, goal, dream, or pastime) that makes one feel important and significant. Journaling progress can have a positive, self-fulfilling effect. Exercise is a naturally smart move for fighting depression. Find personal projects you have been excited about in the past but delayed, and complete one every week or two. Engage with others through meet-ups, volunteerism, 12-step self-help groups, etc. Your mind is your most precious tool. Nurture it with positives—from television shows to people, seek out affirming experiences.

Your Parish Nurse,
Jody Farmer and Tiffany Paul

No blood pressures the month of July. If you do need it checked, please ask any way!

As always, bring in your old, expired, unused medications to be safely recycle.