

Overview:

A sacrificed life is a lifestyle which is consistent with an eternal perspective and the calling that you have received. It stems from a love for God and a heart that is given to the Lord and His work.

Outline

I. What is a sacrificed life?

- A. The O.T. sacrifice
- B. The ultimate sacrifice
- C. Our sacrifice - Rom 12:1 "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices"
- D. Paul's example- 2 Timothy 4:6 "poured out like a drink offering" Here is my life to do with as you please. I have no claims on it.
- E. A way of life, and an example we are to follow. -1 Cor 4:17
- F. Exemplified in the lives of: C.T. Studd, Hudson Taylor, Jim Elliot, George Mueller, Eric Liddell, Amy Carmichael

2. 1 Cor 12:10 For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- C. Have an eternal perspective
 1. Mark 10:28-31 "a hundred times as much... in the life to come"

Conclusion:

A sacrificed life is simply living the life that is needed to do what God has called you to do - whatever the cost. The question is not what has God asked us to sacrifice, but what sacrifice will it cost to do what God has called us to do?

II. Following Jesus may come at a cost.

- A. The cost of discipleship - Luke 9:57
- B. Come, follow me. - Matt 4:17,18
- C. The rich young man - Matt 19:21
- D. Carrying your cross - Luke 9:23-25
- E. Ex: Selling the furniture; jobs

III. Vision/calling results in sacrifice.

- A. Ex: Olympic athletes
- B. Paul's vision - 1 Cor 9:24-27
- C. Ex: Communist quote
- D. What is your calling? Matt 28:19,20
- E. Ex: An Atheist's view of Christianity

IV. The heart of a sacrificed life

- A. Having the right heart - Psalm 51:16,17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit"
- B. Ex: The clean-up dilemma
- C. In view of God's mercy - Rom 12:1
- D. Don't sacrifice to be seen by men - Matt 6:1-6
- E. "If Jesus Christ is God and died for me, then to sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him." --C.T. Studd
- F. Ex: Mechanical failure in Nebraska

V. How to sacrifice your life without killing yourself.

- A. Phil 3:16 "Only let us live up to what we have already attained"
- B. Rely on His strength
 1. Isa 40:31 "but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Supporting Material:

Verses:

Psalm 51:16,17 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Matt 4:17,18 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." 18At once they left their nets and followed him. (Also Mark 1:17,18)

Matt 6:19-34 ...20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... 24"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money... 33But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well...

Matt 19:21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Also Mark 10:21, Luke 18:22)

Mark 10:28-31 Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!" 29"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields-- and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. 31But many who are first will be last, and the last first." (Also Matt 19:27-30; Luke 18:28-30)

Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Luke 9:23-25 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. 25What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? (Also Matt 17:24-26; Mark 8:34-38)

Luke 14:25-33 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters-- yes, even his own life-- he cannot be my disciple. 27And anyone who does

not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower... 33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

Luke 9:57-62 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." 59He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." 62Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." (Also Matt 8:18-22)

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.

1 Co 4:9-17 ...11To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. 12We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; 13when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world... 16Therefore I urge you to imitate me. 17For this reason I am sending to you Timothy... He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus...

1 Co 9:24-27 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

1 Co 15:31 I die every day-- I mean that, brothers...

Eph 5:1,2 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Phil 2:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure.

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

Quotes:

Our notion of sacrifice is the wringing out of us something we don't want to give up, full of pain and agony and distress. The Bible's idea of sacrifice is that I give as a love-gift of the very best thing I have.

Oswald Chambers

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

Jim Elliot

Christ says, "Give me all. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want you. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good."

C.S. Lewis

I never made a sacrifice. We ought not to talk of sacrifice when we remember the great sacrifice that he made who left his Father's throne on high to give himself for us.

David Livingstone

If Jesus Christ is God and died for me, then to sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him.

C.T. Studd

References:

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William MacDonald, *True Discipleship*, Walterick publishers, 1975

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