

SERMON OUTLINE

Speaker: Dr Philip Satterthwaite

Text : Leviticus 1: 1 - 17

Title : Devotion To God

Introduction:

Obstacles to reading Leviticus:

- It is remote from our experience
- The NT teaches that some of the regulations are obsolete (Hebrews 9–10; Matthew 16, Mark 7, Acts 10)

But for Christians, Leviticus is scripture (though it is no longer *law*)

The context in the Pentateuch:

- Part of the narrative of Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan
- Part of the covenant teaching which Israel received at Mt Sinai

1. Leviticus 1: The Burnt Offering

What happens?

- The animal is presented
- The worshipper lays hands on it (symbolising identification, not transfer of sins: ctr. Lev. 16:21-22)
- The blood is dashed against the sides of the altar as atonement (cf. Lev. 17:11)
- The entire animal is burned on the altar: an expression of commitment and dependence on God
- Atonement (1:4): covering over sins; wiping sins away; a ransom for one's life

The sacrificial system of Leviticus 1–7: God's gracious provision for Israel.

2. Possible Parallels:

How to convey the meaning of Leviticus 1 in modern terms?

- Burning money?
- ‘Offering up’ a laptop?
- How to offer a car to God

3. Possible Applications

NT writers apply OT sacrificial language in three areas:

- Financial giving (Phil. 4:18)
- Praise and thanksgiving (Heb. 13:15)
- Christians giving themselves to God (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:6-7)

All of life belongs to God.

Conclusion

The meaning of the burnt offering: ‘I belong to you’
How will we express that commitment, make it a reality?