

**Without Sacrifice there is No Christianity**

Sacrifice; now there is a "dirty word!" Who likes to do it? I dare say none of us relish the thought of sacrificing anything. "I worked for it, I earned, I paid for it, and I'm not going to turn lose of it; let someone else sacrifice something" seems to be the sentiment of the day. Watch your legislators at work when it comes time to trim the budget. They want to cut everybody else's programs, but not their own! Sacrificing becomes the way of the loser.

But without sacrifice there is no Christianity. It is based on the necessity of sacrifice. While the dictionary says that a sacrifice is to forfeit, let go, or surrender; sacrifice, when placed in the context of God's love and the obedience of His Son, Jesus becomes the driving force in our salvation (Eph. 5:2; Heb. 9:26). Without the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross our salvation is unavailable and our relationship with God is still severed by sin (1Cor. 15:16,17).

The good news is that Jesus did sacrifice Himself that we might be forgiven and eternally saved (Rom. 3:23-26; 1Cor. 15:1-4). Now it is our turn. Christ's sacrifice means that we must sacrifice too. The apostle Paul calls it a "living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1). Without our being a living sacrifice there is no Christianity (Christ-likeness) in our life.

So without sacrifice there can be no Christianity. This is true of the origin of the "Christian dispensation" and Jesus dying on the cross to make it all possible, and by our response to that sacrifice. We are to be sacrificed to the world and the world to ourselves (Gal. 6:14).

Are you ready to accept Christ's sacrifice by the giving of your own living sacrifice?

See you Sunday! -gls