

## PAYING THE PRICE

**2 CHR 7:1** Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house. 2And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD' house. 3. And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

Not much is known about the relationship that Solomon had with God. Even so, fire did come from heaven and consume the offerings and God's glory filled the house. Two things are worthy of comment. Firstly, upon the finishing of Solomon's prayer fire came from heaven. Secondly, there was no limit on the amount the people were prepared to sacrifice before the Lord. They offered 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep.

Those who have restricted their relationship to God are often those who are not prepared to personally sacrifice to the Lord.

**HEB 2:1** Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip. 2For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

**LEV 10:1** And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. 2And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. 3Then Moses said unto Aaron, This *is it* that the LORD spake, saying, **I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified.** And Aaron held his peace.

Strange fire was fire offered without proper preparation of the sacrifice. It appears that the leaders and the people had limited knowledge of the ways of God. The fire was not offered for the benefit of the people in general. God was not a respecter of persons, for it was the sons of Aaron that were judged. We need not be casual concerning the things of God. Let's give only to Him.

**HEB 10:14** For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Christ's personal offering on Calvary's cross, was the only provision to sanctify all of mankind. He became the "one time offering" for all mankind.

**COL 2:13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, **having forgiven you all trespasses**; 14Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, **and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross**;

God chooses not to remember our sins and transgressions.

**ISA 43:25** I, *even I, am* he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, **and will not remember thy sins**.

**HEB 10:17** And their sins and iniquities will **I remember no more**.

**PSA 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, *so* far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

**EPH 1:7** In whom **we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace;

One offering of Christ perfected us for all time:  
See Heb 10:14; Col 1:19,22; Rom 5:1,2.

God could not use the help of sinful man; this is the reason for the sacrifice of His our son Jesus Christ, the sinless son of God.

**GEN 22:8** And Abraham said, **My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering**: so they went both of them together.

**JOH 1:29** The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world**.

The Old Testament law demanded man make incredible sacrifices for sins; but in Christ we see that the price is already paid. Christ has taken the sin of the whole world. Billions of dollars in animal flesh is no longer needed as payment for sin. Christ has given it freely.

**EPH 2:8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: ***it is the gift of God***:

**EPH 4:7** But unto every one of us is given grace according to **the measure of the gift of Christ**.