

Give of Your Best to Your Master

International Bible Lesson
Leviticus 22:17-25, 31-33
Sunday, December 13, 2015
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“Keep my commands and follow them. I am the LORD ”
(Leviticus 22:31).

God expects everyone to keep His commands because He is the LORD. The LORD is the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the Father of Jesus, God’s only begotten Son. Those who say they believe in the LORD should set the example for others by obeying God’s commands. The Book of Leviticus describes in detail the types of sacrifices God commanded. But believers do not obey these commands because they were explicitly meant for the Israelites and the foreigners residing in Israel (Leviticus 22:17). Furthermore, the sacrifices pointed toward the sacrifice of the Messiah for the forgiveness of sins. When the Messiah came He fulfilled the Law of God by His perfect obedience and His sacrificial death to save believers. However, we can glean some principles for giving from God’s commands regarding acceptable sacrifices. We should give our best to God and those things that are valuable. For example, God commanded: “Do not offer to the LORD the blind, the injured or the maimed, or anything with warts or festering or running sores. Do not place any of these on the altar as a food offering presented to the LORD” (Leviticus 22:22). No one wants to eat anything that is unfit or unclean. By the time of Malachi the prophet, the Israelites were disregarding this command (see Malachi 1:8). Many years ago a minister lamented the fact that some in his church were giving what was not asked for or needed; this included a filthy threadbare carpet and a fan with a burned-out motor. If the givers had understood Leviticus, they would have followed some principles for giving that would have guided them as they sought to follow the LORD.

— © Copyright 2015 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

You may reprint or reproduce this *International Bible Lesson* for not-for-profit use. More Uniform Series Bible Lessons are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org.

Thinking Further

1. What type of offering was optional with less strict requirements than other sacrifices?
2. What do the Old Testament sacrifices point toward?
3. Why do you think God instituted and gave specific rules for sacrifices to the Israelites?
4. What is one thing you have learned or consider important about giving from your study of these Scripture texts?
5. What kind of sacrifices does God require of Christians today?