

Part 3 – What God *Really* Wants from You

In part 2 we learned that only those who trust in the Lord (wholeheartedly) are happy (blessed) because they have nothing to fear. And fear is what causes much internal pain for it instigates worry and anxieties too. And we can truly only have peace of mind when we are at peace with our Heavenly Father. And the only way we can be at peace with Him is when we accept His clemency, through faith in Jesus Christ (whose blood shed atones for our sins) and learn to do what's right, by studying His Word. But that also means we trust in Him to fulfill His promises of blessing, and protecting, us *when we obey Him*. That's why those who do truly trust the Lord (YHVH) will also not take heed (listen to or obey) the proud or to the liars in the world. They also won't worry about threats, lies or persecutions that come from obeying Gods' Word, because they *know* they'll *always* be delivered out of all troubles **if** they trust and obey the Lord (YHVH) *sincerely*, from the heart. *Because* we serve Him, He *won't* let us die until it's 'our time'. And David also pointed out that God has done *so many* wonderful works that's it's impossible to declare them all. As John said, at the end of the Gospel he wrote: *And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written* (John 21:25). So, with the thought of God's many 'wonderful works' in mind, let's see what else David has to say...

Psalms 40

6 *Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.*

So, after David just spoke about how the wonderful works of God are so numerous he couldn't write them all down, even if he tried, he now begins to speak of His *most* wonderful 'work' of all: *salvation through Jesus Christ*. Remember now, at the time of David, the blood sacrifices were still required because Jesus Christ had not yet come to earth to die for our sins. What David is plainly explaining is that, while they were required to do them – *until* Jesus Christ came to die for us – simply 'going through the motions' of offering sacrifices was *not* what God wanted, which is also what Jesus Christ taught in places such as Mth 5-7, 7:18-20, 15:18-20, 18:1-4, 23, Mk 7:18-23, 12:28-31, Lk 18:10-14. Thus, this verse also prophesies what Jesus would say and teach. What matters most is *what's in your heart and mind*; it's about how much you *truly* love our Heavenly Father. And love isn't just an emotion. It's also *action* (Rom 13:10). But actions *without* a true change of heart (turning back to our Father wholeheartedly, casting off your sins and idols, and striving to obey Him *sincerely*) are just fake, and *He doesn't want that* (Mth 23). As Paul explains in his letter to the Galatians...

19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.
20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? **God forbid:** for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, **that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.**

23 But **before faith came**, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore **the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.**

25 But **after that faith is come**, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

26 For **ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ **have put on Christ.**

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: **for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

29 And **if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

Gal 3:19-29

To understand this, we must understand that there are different parts to God's Law. He's given us the Ten Commandments, which apply to *individual conduct*. And then there are Statutes, which are laws of *national administration*. And then there are Judgments, which are also laws of national administration but apply to *the judgments rendered in the courts* concerning both the Ten Commandments and the Statutes. None of these have been 'done away with' when Jesus Christ died on the cross for us. As He said...

17 **Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, **one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**

19 Whosoever therefore shall **break** one of these least commandments, **and shall teach men so**, he shall be **called the least** in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall **do and teach them**, the same shall be **called great** in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:17-20

So, what part of the law did Jesus fulfill? Paul clearly explains this for us...

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

*15 Having **abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances**; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*

*16 And **that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby**;*

Eph 2:13-16

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;

*14 **Blotting 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;***

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Col 2:13-15

Paul makes it clear that the part of the Law that Jesus ‘abolished’ is the law contained in the ‘ordinances’, which were the blood sacrifices and the other ‘rituals’ included with them. And the reason (as Paul pointed out in Gal 3) that the ‘ordinances’ were *added* was because Israel sinned (think about the golden calf idol they made, and worshipped, in Ex 32). But they were only to be performed UNTIL the promised Messiah (Gen 3:15, Deut 18:18-19) – who is Jesus Christ – came to fulfill all the blood sacrifices ‘once and for all’ (Heb 10:10). That’s why we are not supposed to offer blood sacrifices anymore; because the blood that Jesus Christ shed for us fulfills all the sacrifices (the blood and all others) for *all times* (Heb 10:10). Eph 2:15 also points out that Jesus Christ abolished the ‘enmity’ of the flesh, which the blood sacrifices were designed to atone for, before Jesus came. What is that ‘enmity’? Of course, Paul tells us...

*6 For **to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.***

*7 Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God**: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

*9 But ye are **not in the flesh, but in the Spirit**, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, **he is none of his**.*

Rom 8:6-9

Paul explains that our carnal mind (the heart, the part of us that *wants* to sin) is that ‘enmity’ that separates us from our Heavenly Father. The word ‘**enmity**’ means **hostility**; by implication, a **reason for opposition** (#2189). In other words, when we sin, we give our Heavenly Father a reason to be hostile with us; that’s because sin is don’t what is wrong, even evil. As Ps 66:18 says, if we willingly hold (keep and don’t repent for) iniquity in our heart, our Heavenly Father (YHVH) won’t hear us which means, He won’t *answer* our prayers (Prov 1, Isa 59). And the word ‘enmity’ comes from another word that means to be **hateful** (passively, odious, or actively,

hostile). When we allow our carnal mind to control us, instead of us controlling it (our emotions and desires to sin) then we *make ourself* the enemy of God. And, used as a noun, ‘enmity’ even means ***an adversary***, especially **Satan** (#2190). And this is why Paul also wrote...

*14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that **through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;***

15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Heb 2:14-18

So, when our Heavenly Father came to earth, incarnated into a flesh body as Jesus Christ (John 1:1,14, Col 1:15, Heb 1:3) *He conquered death*. What this means is that, He not only conquered the ‘carnal mind’ within Himself (Eph 2:15) – and He did this by never sinning (Heb 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5) - but He *also* conquered Satan’s (the Devil, Rev 12:9, 20:12) power over death (Heb 2:14), which is *Satan’s ability to deceive us* (seduce us) *into sinning* (rebellious against God), because it’s our carnal mind that causes us to want to sin. **That is why all the carnal ‘ordinances’ were designed to bring us to Jesus Christ** (as Gal 3 explained). Because they taught us what Jesus would do for us (living a sinless life and dying to pay for our sins). **But**, they also taught us *what we must do* in order to be spiritually close to (and in good favor with) our Heavenly Father. And we *must*, therefore, have faith that Jesus’ sacrifices were truly good enough to atone for our sins – again, because He never sinned. *That’s* what gives us freedom from a guilty conscience and the vigor to live life for our Heavenly Father. And, we’re *supposed* to follow in Jesus’ footsteps. He sacrificed His own flesh body to pay for our sins. And likewise, we are supposed to sacrifice (spiritually ‘kill’) that ‘enmity’ with us – which is our carnal mind (the ‘lower’ part of us that wants to ‘act like an animal’ and sin).

And so, our duty – once we accept Jesus Christ’s blood shed to atone for our sins – is to ‘sacrifice’ (or spiritually ‘kill’ - i.e. crucify) our carnal mind (the part of us that wants to sin; which is ‘enmity’ with God, Rom 8:5-8) so we can be pleasing to God and learn how *not* to sin. This means working to put off our ‘old man’ *which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts* (Eph 2:22), and not serve sin any longer (Rom 6:6). We do this by *renewing in the spirit of our mind* (Eph 4:23) through studying God’s Word (Col 3:10) so we can put on the ‘new man’, which is created in God’s Image of *righteousness and true holiness* (Eph 4:24). But, we’re not alone in this endeavor. As Jesus told us in John 14, when we believe in Him (and work to obey

Him), our Heavenly Father will send us His Holy Spirit, which *helps us* to put off this ‘old man’ (our carnal mind, the part of us that wants to sin) and put on the ‘new man’ who is made in God’s (and Jesus’) image of holiness and righteousness. As Gal 5:24 says, *they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts*. That’s how Jesus Christ ‘sanctifies’ us; **His Holy Spirit helps us to crucify our carnal mind; the part of us that wants to sin** (Rom 8:26-34). The word ‘**affections**’ here means (in the context of this verse) *an emotion or influence* (#3804) and comes from a word that means (in the context of this verse) *passion* (especially *concupiscence*, which means strong desires which is usually sexual in nature) (#3806). That’s why, in Gal 5, Paul tells us what works the carnal mind produces verses the fruits that the Holy Spirit produces within us, when we allow Him to help us to ‘crucify’ our carnal mind *daily* (Lk 9:23). Paul also explains this even further in the book of Hebrews, when he quotes from this verse 6 in Psalms 40...

1 For the law [of ordinances] having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. [‘perfect’ means to be spiritually ‘complete’, or mature, #5055]

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

*5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, **Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:** [quoted from this Ps 40:6]*

*6 **In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.** [again, quoted from this Ps 40:6]*

7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. [quoted from the next verse we’ll cover, Ps 40:7]

*8 Above when he said, **Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;** [of ordinances, again quoting from this Ps 40:6]*

*9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. **He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.***

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

*14 For by **one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.***

15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

Heb 10:1-18

So, those carnal blood sacrifices – though they were ordained by God to be performed – could not truly *spiritually* clean people. They were only ‘types’ for Jesus Christ because they looked forward to the Great Sacrifice Jesus Christ would (and did) make for us on the cross. But (as Paul explained in Gal 3) they were a ‘schoolmaster’ to teach people how to come to Jesus Christ. And truly, they still teach us today, even though we are **not** to perform them anymore. When we study the Old Testament books, we can see how Jesus Christ fulfilled them *perfectly*. To learn more about this, check out the book of Hebrews, which you can study, in depth, via this link: [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Hebrews]. So, Paul quotes from this Psalms 40:6 to point out how God truly got no pleasure from the animals themselves being sacrificed. What He enjoyed was when the people came to Him *with a sincere heart* and were *truly* sorry for their sins. And also, He also delighted when they learned (from the types of the sacrifices) how to ‘come to Christ’. He was pleased when they believed that the Messiah **would** come, just as He is pleased with us today for believing that He **has** come and fulfilled all the sacrifices (by shedding His own blood to atone for our sins). So, whether or not we lived before Jesus’ day, or after, *what our Heavenly Father wants is still the same*. And, our Heavenly Father has *not* been bashful about telling us what He really wants. Consider the following Scriptures in the OLD Testament that clearly explain what He wants from us...

12 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

*13 **To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?***

14 Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

15 Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.

*16 **Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.***

Deut 10:12-16

*13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.***

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Eccl 12:13-14

To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

Prov 21:3

But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

Jer 7:23

For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Hosea 6:6

14 Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

Amos 5:14-15

6 Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Mic 6:6-8

1 Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me.

2 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

*3 Son of man, **these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them?***

4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

5 That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols.

*6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.***

Ezek 14:1-6

*Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; **Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you,** saith the LORD of hosts.*

Zech 1:3

16 These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

17 And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.

Zech 8:16-17

*22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.***

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

1 Sam 15:22-23

16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Ps 51:16-17

11 To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

12 When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

13 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

*16 **Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;***

*17 **Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.***

Isa 1:11-17

Notice how God points out that He had come to actually ***hate*** their sacrifices (and oblations)? That's because *they were not done with a sincere heart*. They had not been repenting of *anything*. They were simply trying to 'buy him off' ... as if our Heavenly Father could be 'bought off' when He owns everything. He's not a 'genie in a bottle'. We can't 'rub him' the 'right way' and then 'poof' we get our every wish and desire. Their sacrifices *had* to come from a truly humble and repentant heart or He despised them, as He continues to say...

21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.
22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.
23 Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.
24 But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.
Amos 5:21-24

21 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh.
22 For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:
*23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, **Obey my voice**, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and **walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you**, that it may be well unto you.*
Jer 7:21-23

Again, you can see how (and *why*) the blood sacrifices eventually became *very* offensive to our Heavenly Father because the people *totally missed* the point of what they were for: to teach us how to do what's right and kick off our sinful ways. Yet, because the priesthood itself had become corrupt (Jer 23, Ezek 13, 34) the people thought they could (basically) 'buy God off' by giving him sacrifices and then *continue on in sin*. That's not at all true. No amount of money or blood of animals (or any other 'traditions') can make Him happy with us. Only if we sincerely strive to change our heart and mind, and stop doing wickedly (from the heart), will He be pleased with us. He makes that *very* clear in the above Scriptures. **And** that's *also* what Jesus Christ taught...

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.
22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.
*23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth**: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*
*24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **must** worship him **in spirit and in truth**.*
John 4:21-24

28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 And **thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.**

31 And the second is like, namely this, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** There is none other commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:28-31

9 And he spake this parable unto certain **which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:**

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: **for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**

Luke 18:9-14

17 And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable.

18 And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;

19 Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?

20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

21 **For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,**

22 **Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:**

23 **All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.**

Mark 7:17-23

Of course, there are *so many more* Scriptures where Jesus taught us what our Heavenly Father really wants – our sincere love *and* obedience – but these are just a few to prove the point. If you study the Gospels, you can't help but to be taught by Jesus concerning what God *really* wants

because that was His life's purpose (aside from paying for our sins). Check out the following Gospels that you can study in depth with these links...

Mark – https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Mark

Luke – https://t.me/BibleStudyBookof_Luke

John - https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_John_and_epistle

And there's *many* more Scriptures that also help us understand what the sacrifices themselves meant (symbolized and looked forward to), in both the Old and the New Testaments...

*Let **my prayer** be set forth before thee as incense; and **the lifting up of my hands** as the evening sacrifice.*

Ps 141:2

*Accept, I beseech thee, the **freewill offerings of my mouth**, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments.*

Ps 119:108

4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

*5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

1 Peter 2:4-6

*1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service**.*

*2 And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Rom 12:1-3

So, clearly has God declared that He does *not* want blood sacrifices, but rather, He wants such things as: our sincere gratitude and thanks (Ps 50:7-15, 107:11, 116:17, Jonah 2:9, Amos 4:5), praise (Ps 54:6, Ps 141:2, Jer 17:26, 33:1), joy (Ps 27:6) righteousness (Deut 33:19, Ps 4:5, Heb 13:15), controlling your body (Rom 12:1-3) including your mouth (Ps 119:108). You can learn more about the symbology of the blood sacrifices in this special studies below...

Blood Sacrifices; What they Mean to Us Today - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1094>

Sacrifices God Really Wants - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1400>

Sacrifice - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1062>

Sacrifices - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1091>

Thus, the Holy Spirit is such a blessing; because through the Holy Spirit inside of us, He truly helps us to ‘kill’ the carnal mind and learn to do what’s right, because He gives us *understanding* of what God really wants from us, as we study His Word *and* He helps us to learn how to obey God’s Word (sincerely) during our everyday life. That’s what Paul explained in many of his epistles, especially Romans 8 and Galatians 5. Further, if you are fortunate enough to have a *Companion Bible* [<https://t.me/BestStudyBible/6>], check out the notes on this verse. It points out that the offerings spoken of here in Ps 40:6, were also prophesied of (in the Psalms) to be fulfilled by Jesus Christ: the meal offering, burnt offering and sin offering were spoken of in Ps 22, and in Ps 69 Jesus is prophesied to be the trespass offering. Another point the *Companion Bible* brings out is about the phrase this verse 6 (in Ps 40) uses: ‘*Mine ears Thou opened*’. Very interestingly (and importantly), the word ‘**opened**’ here means *to dig*; figuratively, *to plot* and, generally, *to bore* or *open* (#3738). In other words, our ‘ears’ are opened (truly hearing what God wants from us) only when we DIG into God’s Word! As 2 Tim 2:15 says: *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*. The word ‘**dividing**’ here means *to make a straight cut*, i.e. (figuratively) *to dissect* (expound) *correctly* (the divine message) (#3718).

We *have* to learn to rightly divide God’s Word when we study. This means to keep the context of the subject and object in mind when we’re studying and also taking words back to the Hebrew meanings through the *Strong’s Concordance* [<https://t.me/BestStudyBible/46>]. It also requires understanding when figures of speech are being used [<https://t.me/BestStudyBible/10>], which is why the *Companion Bible* is so helpful because it often points this out. And there’s also deeper messages relayed to us through the use of Biblical Numerics, for many numbers also have spiritual meanings [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/960> & <https://t.me/BestStudyBible/15>]. And that’s not all, even understanding the Zodiac’s helps us understand God’s plan of salvation [<https://t.me/BestStudyBible/14>], which Psalms 19 also explains [to review this chapter, click here: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Psalms/183]. And when we do faithfully ‘dig’ into God’s Word (rightly dividing) *we’ll never be disappointed*. The Holy Spirit *will* help us to understand even the hardest of Scriptures, *in due time* – so long as we keep studying sincerely and striving to apply what we’ve learned in our own life *and* share it with others, as the opportunities arise (Eph 5:15-16, Col 5:5-6).

The *Companion Bible* also points out that **obedience** is the great truth conveyed here in this verse 6 of Ps 40. As Samuel told the first king of Israel (Saul) who was rebellious to God: *to*

obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry (1 Sam 15:22-23). That's why He also said: *Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you (Jer 7:23).* And truly, just as God did not delight in Israel of old sacrificing animals yet keeping their sin, He does not like it when people who claim to be Christians don't actually obey Him. Far too many people go to Church and 'do what they are told' (just as in times of old) yet they don't take time to study God's Word *for themselves*. **Church is Not Christianity** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/212>] any more than the blood sacrifices were. **The Church** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/332>] is not a building, it's a '*calling out*' (#1577) – ***it's God calling us to come out of spiritual deception, stop rebelling against Him and to humbly, and sincerely, do what's right – wholeheartedly.*** And that's the great truth this one little verse here in the Psalms 40:6 teaches us. It's what David taught, it's what all the other prophets of old taught. It's what Jesus Christ and his apostles taught. And it is thus what any *true* man, or woman, of God will also teach (share with others) yet to this very day. **The only way we can be spiritually cleansed is to study God's Word and sincerely try to obey it.** *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Rom 8:13-14).* So, it doesn't matter how many 'good works' you think you are doing for the Lord, if you are not kicking the sin out of your own heart, mind and life then you are really not pleasing to Him (Mth 7:21-23). That's why we are to live our life learning what God's Word say (and do it) *and* learning how to listen – *and obey* – the Holy Spirit [learn how to **Hear God** here: <https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/39> and here: <https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/86>]. After all, God knows you heart and mind and knows if you are really sincere or not; there's no fooling Him [<https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/87>]...

*17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth **walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,***

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

*20 But ye **have not so learned Christ;***

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

*22 That ye **put off** concerning the former conversation **the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

*23 And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind;***

*24 And that ye **put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.***

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Eph 4:17-32

We'll pick this up in part 4...

AMEN.