

## THE DOCTRINE OF THE ALTAR

TEXT: (Genesis 8:20, NIV)

<sup>20</sup> Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

INTRODUCTION:

1. “The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out” (Leviticus 6:13, NIV).

A. Establishing an Alter—The First Order of Business

1. “The LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your offspring I will give this land.’ So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him” (Genesis 12:7, NIV).
2. “Let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God” (Genesis 35:3, NIV).

I. NOAH—AN ALTAR BUILDER

A. Noah Was an Altar Builder

1. “So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on the earth—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it” (Genesis 8:18-20, NIV).

2. “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33, NIV).

B. Noah Found God’s Favor

1. “But Noah found favor (grace) in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:8, NIV).
2. “Come close to God and he will come close to you” (James 4:8, NLT).

C. Blessed of God

1. “Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth’” (Genesis 9:1, NIV).
2. “Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest” (John 4:35, NIV).

II. LIVING SACRIFICES

1. “With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity” (Romans 12:1-2, PHILLIPS).

A. A Sacrificial Life

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” (Romans 12:1, KJV).

2. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship" (Romans 12:1, NIV).
3. "'Come out from them and be separate', says the Lord. 'Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.' And, 'I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.'

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God" (II Corinthians 6:17-7:1, NIV).

4. "To surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices" (Romans 12:1, TPT).

#### B. Living Sacrifices

1. "Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about'" (Genesis 22:2, NIV).
2. "You cannot serve both God and Money" (Matthew 6:24, NIV).
3. "Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them" (Hebrews 11:35-38, NIV).

#### C. We Must Identify with Christ

1. "Surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship" (Romans 12:1, TPT).
2. "And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27, NIV).
3. "I die every day" (I Corinthians 15:31, NIV).
4. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death" (Romans 6:1-4, KJV).
5. "As Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4, KJV).
6. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2, NIV).
7. "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think" (Romans 12:2, TLB).
8. "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within" (Romans 12:2, PHILLIPS).

### III. PLACE OF REFRESHING

#### A. The Fountain of Our Beginning

1. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14, NIV).

**B. A Stagnant Pond**

1. “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” (Acts 3:19, NIV).

**C. Failing Does Not Have to Be Fatal**

1. “Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light. Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the LORD’S wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness. Then my enemy will see it and will be covered with shame, she who said to me, ‘Where is the LORD your God?’ My eyes will see her downfall; even now she will be trampled underfoot like mire in the streets” (Micah 7:8-10, NIV).
2. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, NIV).
3. “For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again” (Proverbs 24:16, NIV).

**CONCLUSION**

1. “Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it’s the only way you’ll get on your feet” (James 4:9-10, MSG).
2. “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” (Acts 3:19, NIV).