

Live for Christ



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What do you think it means to be a living sacrifice? In the Old Testament people worshiped God by bringing animal sacrifices. At certain times each year they would sacrifice an animal by killing it, and the animal's blood would pay for or cover their sins. Each animal sacrifice pointed to the day when Jesus would die on the cross to pay, once-and-for-all, for the sins of all those who trust in him. That's why we no longer sacrifice animals when we worship God. Jesus has completely paid for all our sins; past, present, and future.

To be a living sacrifice means that we live our whole life joyfully obeying God as an act of worship to God. We won't be put to death like the Old Testament animal sacrifices, because Jesus has died in our place. When we trust in Jesus, he gives us new life. And we are to live that life in ways that are pleasing to him.

How do we do that? God must change us by changing the way we think. As we read the Bible, God helps us to think about things the way he thinks about them. He helps us to hate sin and love righteousness. He helps us to want to do good and to obey. And as we learn to obey God, we discover that his way really is the best way to live. His commands seem good to us. We want to love others, to obey our parents and teachers, and to serve others. When we live this way we will be very different from the world, from those who don't know and love Jesus. We will be a living sacrifice who is pleasing to God.