

MEDITATION ON A COVENANT BY SACRIFICE

As I read methodically every day through the Psalms, today I find this thought-provoking verse:

Psalm 50:5

Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me **by sacrifice**.

As the Psalmist penned these words, moved along by the Holy Spirit of God, the tabernacle was the place of sacrifice. One can only imagine the daily scene of deadly activity as spotless, innocent animals were slaughtered and burned on the altar of sacrifice; all the while the stench of death permeating the air. This daily ritual was performed out of obedience and the hope of pleasing God.

Those of us who live on this side of the cross have been given the full meaning of the typology of sacrifice and know that all pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ; the once and for all sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin. But, if the qualifier of who the Lord will gather unto Him is those that have covenanted with Him by sacrifice, am I qualified? Have I sacrificed? What have I sacrificed? Is my sacrifice acceptable? As I meditate on these questions, I remember that the Jew who brought the animal for sacrifice had to **own** the animal. That was the reason for the money-changers in the temple; to make it possible for the traveler to purchase his own offering. So, what do I own that would make an acceptable offering?

It certainly cannot be anything that is tangible because all that I have has been gifted to me.

John 3:27

John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

I cannot offer the fruits of my labour because I am not capable of producing acceptable fruit.

John 15:4

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

I cannot sacrifice my body because even that is not my own.

1 Cor. 6:19

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Even my mind, as a believer, is not my own.

1 Cor. 2:16

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

I am becoming extremely concerned. If I have nothing that is totally and uniquely mine to give to God but wait! There is something! In His infinite wisdom God has given me free will. This is mine. I have the right to **choose**. I can choose death or life. And, because **I choose life**, each and every day I can offer my will freely to God. Each day I am able to sacrifice my will to His. I am blessed to be able to say, as did my Lord,

“NOT MY WILL BUT THINE BE DONE.”