

Drawing Near to God – Leviticus 1:1-17

God invites us to worship and instructs us how to worship

The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock. -Leviticus 1:1-2

1. What are some common ways that the Church might base our worship more on our personal preferences than the instruction of God in His word? How are you tempted to approach worship with this mindset?
2. What is the purpose of worship? Do you think that it is possible to go through the motions but distract from the point or miss the point of worship altogether? How?
3. How can we accept God's invitation to enter in and participate in *true* worship whenever we gather, rather than observation, shallow experience, or performance?

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. -John 4:23

We cannot draw near to God without a sacrifice

"If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD. He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. -Leviticus 1:3-4

1. What does it mean to draw near to God in worship? What gets in the way of our drawing near when we pray, sing, participate in the Lord's supper, engage in other means of worship?
2. How was the whole sacrificial system in Leviticus a 'shadow' of God's perfect redemptive plan through Jesus?
3. Why is it vital that whenever we gather and worship, we address the depth and seriousness of our sin? How does Jesus' perfect sacrifice on our behalf to bring us into right relationship with God fuel our worship?

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:8-9

God provides the method and the means for our worship

Thus shall he do with the bull. As he did with the bull of the sin offering, so shall he do with this. And the priest shall make atonement for them, and they shall be forgiven. -Leviticus 4:20

1. What does it mean for the glory of God in the gospel to be central to our gathering and worshiping together?
2. What does it look like for our worship to flow out of the new life, wonder, joy and confidence of what God has done for us?
3. Knowing what worship is about and what we are proclaiming - how might we prepare and engage our hearts and minds to draw near to God more fully through our various means of worship as a church?

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. -Hebrews 10:19-25