

Psalm 50

Psalms 50:1-3 [New King James] *“The Mighty One, God the LORD, has spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun to its going down. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous all around Him.”*

In this powerful Psalm the imagined scene is God appearing in fire and tempest at Mount Zion to summon the entire world to His judgement seat. But if this focuses all eyes on God, His eyes are only on the judgement of His people with whom He has made a covenant, that is, those who call themselves Christians, [1 Peter 4:17-19].

Psalms 50:4-6 [New King James] *“He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people: ‘Gather My saints together to Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.’ Let the heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is Judge. Selah”*

This judgement by the Creator God is being watched by all the rest of humanity.

First God addresses the unthinking religious people.

Psalms 50:7-8 [New King James] *“Hear, O My people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you; I am God, your God! I will not rebuke you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, which are continually before Me.”*

God’s accusation is **not** that they have been guilty of any neglect in the ritual of sacrifices, which have been regularly performed.

Psalms 50:9-13 [New King James] *“I will not take a bull from your house, nor goats out of your folds. For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine. ‘If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness. Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?’”*

The Creator God’s charge concerns their motives.

They had offered these animal sacrifices as if He had need of them and must as a result feel grateful for their generosity.

God declares the absurdity of such a ritualistic view of worship, all of our possessions, all of creation in fact already belong to Him, yet too often worship in so-called Christian churches are pure repeated rituals which quite soon lose any meaning.

Psalms 50:14-15 [New King James] *“Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”*

True worship is a personal response of thanksgiving to what the Creator God has done for us through His Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, the expression of His love and grace for all humanity, [John 3:16-17].

How do we really worship this Creator God “in spirit and truth,” [John 4:23] as He desires we should?

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

This is how Paul taught the Christian Church at Rome and lived out in his life, after he had a dynamic meeting with Jesus Christ.

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” that means our whole life, body, mind and human spirit, [Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11].

This is a total, personal sacrifice of our will and an acceptance of God’s will in our lives.

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

God will then begin to re-educate our minds through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to make us acceptable to have an intimate relationship with Him for eternity, [John 17:3].

Performing certain “religious rituals” will not bring about such an intimate relationship, it is our love that the Creator God is seeking, that is in a limited physical form the intimate love between a husband and wife within marriage.

The Greek word translated “*know*” in **John 17:3** is the same word used in **Luke 1:34** by Mary.

Psalms 50:16-21 [New King James] *“But to the wicked God says: ‘What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in your mouth, seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you? When you saw a thief, you consented with him, and have been a partaker with adulterers. You give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother’s son. These things you have done, and I kept silent; you thought that I was altogether like you; but I will rebuke you, and set them in order before your eyes.’”*

This is still directed to people who call themselves Christians, not to humanity as a whole who are just watching how the Creator God deals with His people.

Some people who call themselves Christians glibly recite God’s Word, the Christian Bible, but do not act on them, once the religious words have impressed other people they turn their backs on what they are instructed to do according to His Word.

Jesus Christ called such people hypocrites, [Matthew 23:13-15, 23, 25, 27]. They are **not** what they claim they are.

Psalms 50:22-23 [New King James] *“Now consider this, you who forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver: whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God.”*

The giving of salvation is from the Creator God, our part is to receive it with the delighted praise, thanks and obedience it deserves.

Hebrews 13:15-16 [New King James] *“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”*

Our thanks to the Creator God, is also to be expressed the serving of fellow human beings.