

# Sacrifice Of The Wicked – Proverbs 15:8-9

**Proverbs 15:8-9** [NIV] *“The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him. The LORD detests the way of the wicked but he loves those who pursue righteousness.”*

Note, the wicked person was **not** without the thoughts of a Creator God to Whom they should be making a humble, acceptable sacrifice.

It is the “*way of the wicked*” that God detests **not** the wicked person.

The key words to understanding this passage of scripture are “*pursue righteousness.*”

That is a very intensive action packed attitude, very purposeful way of life.

Remember that “*righteousness*” is referring to a right relationship with our Holy Creator God.

These scriptures show that God is as concerned with our day-to-day life [way] as with our “*spiritual offerings*” that include our prayers.

**Genesis 4:1-5** [New King James] *“Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, ‘I have acquired a man from the LORD.’ Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.”*

**Both Cain and Abel were aware of the Creator God and for the need to honour Him with a grateful sacrifice.**

**But notice what was first in the rejection or acceptance, the person Cain or Abel, second was what they offered.**

**What caused the rejection or acceptance of the sacrifice was the attitude of the person making the offering.**

**Abel’s offering reflected his realisation that he needed a Saviour.** Both were aware of rebellious sin through the example of their parents.

Also aware of how God made atonement, [**Genesis 3:21**] covered them with skins of animals, most likely lambs symbolic of the future Lamb of God, Jesus Christ being sacrificed for atonement [atonement is the Hebrew word “*kâphar*” to mean a covering to forgive or pardon.]

Cain’s offering was what he had produced from the earth, for he had no young lambs to offer and was too proud to humbly buy one from his brother.

Cain’s attitude was that by his own works he could ensure his future, no need for a Saviour.

We have to apply the same attitudes of mind to **Proverbs 15:8-9.**

**What God is pointing out in these verse is hypocrisy.**

a) **Being right inside is much harder than speaking righteous words that give the impression to others of a righteous life.**

b) We find it easier to give a show of remorse, to “*tear out garments*” as the Pharisees did [Matthew 26:65] than to humbly “*mend our minds*” [Romans 12:2].

c) It is easier to offer right sounding words in repetitive prayers than to open up our hearts and minds to our Creator God, seeking to live a life that will be acceptable to Him.

**Galatians 6:7** [New King James] “*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*”

**We cannot hide our attitude from God.**

**What God requires as an offering sacrifice is found in two Psalms.**

**Psalms 19:13-14** [New King James] “*Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.*”

An arrogant, insulant, proud attitude, meaning of the Hebrew word “*zêd*” translated “*presumptuous*” will lead us to an unacceptable attitude towards our Creator God and hence unacceptable words.

**Psalms 51:17** [New King James] “*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, these, O God, You will not despise.*”

“*Broken*” Hebrew “*dâkâh*” meaning humble and afflicted mentally. “*Contrite*” Hebrew word contrite in **Isaiah 66:2** “*nâkeh*” adds smitten and dejected, as King David was in this Psalm after the sin he had committed with Bathsheba and her husband were exposed to him by Nathan the prophet.

**Is this how we respond when God’s Word, the Christian Bible, exposes our sins?**