

Sermon #11 — *Discovering Christ in Leviticus*

Title: **THINGS PERTAINING TO PEACE**

Text: Leviticus 3:1-17

Subject: *Peace Offerings*

Date: Tuesday Evening — June 12, 2018

Readings: *Jimmy Bowman and Mark Henson*

Introduction:

As we look again at the peace offerings in Leviticus 3, bear in mind that the Hebrew word for “*peace offering*” is always used in the plural, except in Amos 5:22. Perhaps the closest equivalent in English would be “things pertaining to peace.” So the title of my message is **THINGS PERTAINING TO PEACE**.

JOHN AND BETTY STAM

But before we look at our text, let me tell you about a family of believers who knew something about the peace of God which I want to preach to you.

John and Betty Stam and their family found peace in the midst of indescribably more extreme stress than most of us can ever imagine.

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John and Betty met in Bible college in 1930. They were both in their mid-twenties. Betty grew up in China. Her parents were missionaries there. She returned to China in 1931. John soon followed. In a little less than two years, in October 1933, they were married.

Fourteen months later, communist insurgents under the command of Mao Tse-tung captured the town where John, Betty, and their infant child Helen lived. The Stams were arrested. Early on December 8, the soldiers discussed how they would kill baby Helen. **A poor Chinese farmer** stepped forward, pleading for the child's life. The soldiers replied, "Fine. We won't kill the child — if you're willing to die in her place!" The farmer agreed. The soldiers shot and killed him.

The next morning, the soldiers forced John and Betty to leave their house without Helen. They stripped the couple down to their underwear, and marched them through the streets, mocking them. As

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a crowd formed, the Stams were sentenced to death. **A Chinese doctor**, until this time afraid to speak up, made a last-minute plea for their lives. The communists asked if he was a Christian. When he openly professed Christ as his Lord, they killed him. **Then** John and Betty were ordered to their knees. John was beheaded with a sword. Betty grabbed him to hold him and she too was beheaded.

When **Betty's parents** were informed of her death, they replied by telegraph to the staff of China Inland Mission: — “Deeply appreciate your consolation. Sacrifice seems great, but not too great for him who gave himself for us. Experiencing God’s grace. Believe wholeheartedly Romans 8:28.”

Betty Stam's parents knew the peace of God and found strength and comfort in his free grace in Christ and in his wise, adorable, good providence. They knew that no matter what the circumstances, even in death, we are “*more than conquerors through him who loved us.*”

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Betty's sister Helen, for whom the baby had been named, wrote to her bereaved parents: — “Dearest Daddy and Mother, you don’t need to hear me say how much we love you and are thinking of and praying for you in these days...I have such a radiant picture of Betty and John standing with their palms of victory before the Throne, singing a song of pure joy...that I cannot break lose and cry about it as people expect. Crying seems to be too petty for a thing that was so manifestly in God’s hands alone; but my heart is very, very sore for you.”

It is this peace, the peace of God that passes understanding that is set forth in the peace offerings. The peace offerings were not offerings made to obtain peace. Peace was obtained for us by the sin-offering (chapter 4) Christ Jesus. These peace offerings portrayed the enjoyment of peace made by the blood of his cross. It is this peace, found only in Christ, obtained only by faith in him, that inspired those who worshipped God to bring

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their peace offerings. It is this peace that God gives to sinners, as we trust his Son and feed upon him. It is this peace, the peace that Christ gives, which the world can neither understand nor take away, “*the peace of God which passeth all understanding*” (Philippians 4:7). May God be pleased to make it yours and mine, for Christ’s sake.

Now, I want us to look at and ask God the Holy Spirit to teach us **THINGS PERTAINING TO THIS PEACE** from the typology of the peace offerings in Leviticus 3:1-17.

In **Romans 4:25** we are told that the Lord Jesus Christ “*was delivered for (because of) our offences, and was raised again for (because of) our justification.*” Then, in chapter five, the apostle Paul declares the result of this.

(Romans 5:1-2) “Therefore being justified, by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (2) By whom also we have access

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by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Proposition: It is this peace arising from our justification by the finished work of Christ that was pictured in the typical peace offerings of the ceremonial law. — The peace offerings portrayed the believer’s enjoyment of God-given peace, peace by the blood, the blessed peace of faith in Christ.

These offerings might be taken from the herd (vv. 1-5), or the flock (vv. 6-11), or the goats (vv. 12-17). We will look at them in that way.

FROM THE HERD

1st — **The peace offering might be an offering taken from the herd** (vv. 1-5).

(Leviticus 3:1) “And if his oblation *be* a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offer *it* of the herd;

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whether *it be* a male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD.”

THE CONNECTION — The peace offerings are set before us in direct connection with the burnt offerings and the meat offerings.

“The connection is simply this: a justified soul, devoted to the Lord in all things, spontaneously engages in acts of praise and exercises of fellowship, for the soul has been accepted and is at peace with God.” (Andrew Bonar).

The redeemed sinner gladly lifts his heart in praise to God because God has given him peace by the blood of Christ.

(Psalms 116:16-17) “O LORD, truly I *am* thy servant; I *am* thy servant, *and* the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds. (17) I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.”

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MALE OR FEMALE — You will notice that the animal sacrificed for a peace offering could be either male or female. When I read that, I cannot not help asking, — “Why?”

- The reason appears to be that the burnt offering pictured atonement, atonement by Christ, the Lamb of God and the Son of God, our God-man Mediator.
- The peace offering pictured the result of the atonement, peace with God, which flows to all believers, male and female through the accomplishments of Christ at Calvary.
- The peace offering portrays the blessedness of “*joy and peace in believing*” God (Romans 15:13).

WITHOUT BLEMISH — The sacrifice could be either male or female, but it must be “*without blemish*” because it represented the holy Lamb of God, that One who knew no sin though he was made sin for us, the altogether lovely One in whom the

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Father delights. Were he not perfect, we could never have peace. He who is the sinners' Substitute must be both infinite and perfect, else he could not satisfy the demands of God for us.

LAYING HIS HAND ON THE SACRIFICE —

By laying his hand upon the sacrifice, the believing sinner both identified himself with the victim and pointed to Christ as the source of his peace, saying, my peace cannot be found in me, but only in my sin-atonement Substitute. **Peace is found entirely outside ourselves, in the person and work of Christ.**

- Not in Our Circumstances!
- Not in Our Feelings!
- Not in Our Goodness!
- Not in Our Experiences!
- Only in Christ! — His Blood! — His Power! — His Dominion! — His Promises! — His Providence! — His Grace! — His Goodness! —

(v. 2)

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(Leviticus 3:2) “And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron’s sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.”

AT THE DOOR OF THE TABERNACLE — We cannot cross the threshold of the sanctuary, we cannot enter into the presence of the Almighty, except by the blood of Christ that speaks better things than the blood of Abel. — Abel’s blood cried for wrath and vengeance. Christ’s blood says, “PEACE!” — *“Being justified, by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace (COMPLETE JUSTIFICATION) wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”*

THE LORD’S PORTION — Those portions of the animal offered for a peace offering were to be set aside from that which was to be burned unto the

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Lord. They were considered the richest portions of the animal and were those nearest its heart (vv. 3-4).

(Leviticus 3:3-4) “And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that *is* upon the inwards, (4) And the two kidneys, and the fat that *is* on them, which *is* by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away.”

WORSHIP — We come to God, not as sinners to be reconciled, but as sinners who are reconciled. We come to hold fellowship with the eternal God, like those before his throne in heaven, in holy worship. What can we bring him except the deepest, richest love of our hearts? Our very loins were once filled with pain when sin laid heavy upon us.

(Isaiah 21:3-4) “Therefore are my loins filled with pain: pangs have taken hold upon me, as the

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pangs of a woman that travaileth: I was bowed down at the hearing *of it*; I was dismayed at the seeing *of it*. (4) My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me: the night of my pleasure hath he turned into fear unto me.”

Now, where once we knew nothing but pain and turmoil, the peace of God and the joy of the Lord reign within.

As our Lord Jesus Christ, who is our Peace, offered himself as our Substitute to God’s holy law and justice with every depth of affection, with every feeling of love, with every desire of compassion, so we must with our hearts “*worship him in spirit and in truth.*”

FIRE — Let us never fail to recognize and give thanks to God for him who offered himself as “*an offering made by fire, of a sweet savor unto the LORD*” (v. 5).

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- We have peace only because the Son of God endured and extinguished the fire of God’s holy wrath.
- Such a sacrifice as Christ is demands our hearts!
- Shall not the heat of his love for us melt our hearts for Christ, as the fire of God’s wrath melted his very soul for us (v. 5)?

(Leviticus 3:5) “And Aaron’s sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which *is* upon the wood that *is* on the fire: *it is* an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.”

Nothing regarding the worship of God was random, unplanned, or haphazard in the Mosaic age. Neither shall it be today. If we worship God, we must do so “*after the due order,*” with care, diligence, and preparation.

- Prepare to come to the house of God.
- Prepare to hear the Word of God.
- Prepare to meet with God and his people around his throne.

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That portion of the peace offering to be burnt must be burnt “*on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire.*” There is a distinct reference here to the daily sacrifice, which typified full atonement by the blood of Christ.

This is what all of that means: — Our daily fellowship and communion with God, our daily worship, praise, and thanksgiving, must be that which arises fresh to God from a fresh sense of Christ’s sacrifice for us.

(Hebrews 13:15) “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.”

FROM THE FLOCK

2nd — **The peace offering could also come from the flock of sheep** (vv. 6-11).

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WITHOUT BLEMISH — Do not fail to notice how frequently the words “*without blemish*” are used in connection with the offerings (v. 6).

(Leviticus 3:6) “And if his offering for a sacrifice of peace offering unto the LORD *be* of the flock; male or female, he shall offer it without blemish.”

Surely, this is intended to teach us that the sacrifices offered to and accepted by God point to our Lord Jesus Christ who is the infinite delight of his Father (Isaiah 42:1; Matthew 3:17; 17:5).

(Isaiah 42:1) “Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.”

The constant repetition of these words, “*without blemish*,” is also designed to teach that as our God is infinitely, perfectly delighted with his Son, he is

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infinitely, perfectly delighted with all his people in his Son, for the sake of his Son, who are “*without blemish*” in his sight!

(Zephaniah 3:17) “The LORD thy God in the midst of thee *is* mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.”

Can you get hold of this? — Nothing can be more unspeakably delightful to the believing sinner’s heart than this. – The holy Lord God has satisfied, totally and forever satisfied all his holy demands for us in the sacrifice of his own dear Son as our Substitute. He who pardons sin by Christ is truly “*a just God and a Savior*” (vv. 7-8).

(Leviticus 3:7-8) “If he offer a lamb for his offering, then shall he offer it before the LORD. (8) And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron’s sons shall

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sprinkle the blood thereof round about upon the altar.”

The lamb was just as fully accepted as the calf because the value is not in the type but in Christ the antitype. Atonement was not made by these animal sacrifices. They only pointed to the Lamb of God who alone took away the sins of his people (John 1:29; Romans 8:1-4; Hebrews 10:1-25).

(John 1:29) “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

(Romans 8:1-4) “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for

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sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

(Hebrews 10:1-25) “For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. (2) For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. (3) But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. (4) For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. (5) Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: (6) In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin thou hast had no pleasure. (7) Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy

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will, O God. (8) Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law; (9) Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. (10) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. (11) And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (12) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; (13) From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. (14) For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. (15) *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, (16) This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; (17) And their sins and iniquities

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will I remember no more. (18) Now where remission of these *is, there is* no more offering for sin. (19) Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, (20) By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (21) And *having* an high priest over the house of God; (22) Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. (23) Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) (24) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Now, look at Leviticus 3:9-10.

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(Leviticus 3:9-10) “And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat thereof, *and* the whole rump, it shall he take off hard by the backbone; and the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that *is* upon the inwards, (10) And the two kidneys, and the fat that *is* upon them, which *is* by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away.”

Something is mentioned here that is not mentioned with regard to the calf in verses 3 and 4. — “*The Rump.*” The rump was considered the very richest portion of the lamb.

The teaching here is plain enough. Only our best is to be offered to God. If we worship God, we will give him our best.

- The Best of our Affections
- The Best of our Time
- The Best of our Labor
- The Best of our Gifts

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With David, let us resolve, “*I will not offer the Lord that which doth cost me nothing*” (Malachi 3:6-11).

(Malachi 1:6-11) “A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *be* a father, where *is* mine honour? And if I *be* a master, where *is* my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? (7) Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD *is* contemptible. (8) And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it* not evil? And if ye offer the lame and sick, *is it* not evil? Offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts. (9) And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts. (10) Who *is there* even among you that would shut the doors *for nought*? Neither do ye kindle *fire*

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on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand. (11) For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name *shall be* great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense *shall be* offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name *shall be* great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.”

In Leviticus 3:11 we read...

(Leviticus 3:11) “And the priest shall burn it upon the altar: *it is* the food of the offering made by fire unto the LORD.”

There is a different expression used here. Instead of the sacrifice being called “*a sweet savor*” it is called “*the food of the offering made by fire unto the LORD.*” This represents both the holy Lord God and the believing sinner feeding upon and finding satisfaction in the sacrifice of Christ.

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FROM THE GOATS

3rd — **The peace offering might also be a sacrifice from the goats** (vv. 12-17).

(Leviticus 3:12-13) “And if his offering *be* a goat, then he shall offer it before the LORD. (13) And he shall lay his hand upon the head of it, and kill it before the tabernacle of the congregation: and the sons of Aaron shall sprinkle the blood thereof upon the altar round about.”

The goat is set before us here in the same way as the turtledove in chapter one. It was the sacrifice of the poor.

SUBSTITUTION — The goat represents our Lord Jesus Christ as one taken out of the flock for the salvation of the rest. One is killed, the rest are spared. Thus, the sacrifice is a picture of substitution (Psalm

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89:19; John 11:47-52; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18).

(Psalm 89:19) “Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon *one that is* mighty; I have exalted *one* chosen out of the people.”

(John 11:47-52) “Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. (48) If we let him thus alone, all *men* will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. (49) And one of them, *named* Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, (50) Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. (51) And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; (52) And not for that nation only, but that also he

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should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.”

(2 Corinthians 5:21) “For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

(1 Peter 3:18) “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:”

Read Leviticus 3:14-16 with me.

(Leviticus 3:14-16) “And he shall offer thereof his offering, *even* an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that *is* upon the inwards, (15) And the two kidneys, and the fat that *is* upon them, which *is* by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away. (16) And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: *it is* the

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food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat *is* the LORD'S.”

The sacrifice was fully accepted for the believing sinner. So, too, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world is fully accepted for God's elect and we accepted, fully and forever accepted in him!

(Leviticus 3:17) *“It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood.”*

Let me call your attention to three things in this last verse, and I will send you home, I hope with peace in your soul flowing from the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*First, **we read that “all the fat is the LORD'S.”** Clearly, the fat, as we have seen, represents the best. Let us ever give God our best.*

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Second, this statute was not for one or two generations and was not for the house of God alone, but throughout the generations of God's people on this earth and to be observed in all our dwellings. Obviously, we are no longer to observe the rituals of the law. — “*Christ is the end of the law.*” But we are to worship God in exactly the same way those saints of old worshipped him, by faith in Christ.

Moreover, we are to worship him not merely in the house of God at the appointed time of public worship, but in our homes. Our homes are to be sanctuaries of worship. In other words, we are to live as redeemed sinners, devoted to Christ, our God and Savior.

Third, in all things, we are to remember and honor the blood, the precious blood of Christ, by which we have been redeemed. Realizing our utter dependence upon the blood of Christ, let us ever cast the crown of his grace at the feet of our all-glorious

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Savior, in constant remembrance of his blood atonement to the everlasting praise of his worthy name! — Walk in the Spirit, trusting Christ, living for Christ, devoted to Christ, and “*the peace of God which passeth all understanding*” shall keep your heart and mind through Christ Jesus.

(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24) “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (24) Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.”

Amen.