

The Sacrifice of Thanksgiving

Psalm 50

INTRODUCTION

- Psalm 50 intro
- READ THE TEXT
- PRAYER

Hear, O Earth, the Voice of God (vv.1-6)

- A) God Is (v.1)
- B) God Is Sovereign (vv.1-2)
 - a. Creator, therefore Ruler
 - b. God's character shines in the presence of His people
- C) God Is Present and NOT Silent (v.3)
- D) God Is the God of His Covenant People (vv.4-5)
 - a. Through a sacrifice of blood
 - b. Hebrews 12:22-25
- E) God Is the Judge (v.6)
 - a. Because He is righteous, everything He does is justified by His character
 - b. Because He is just, those who are His people must be reconciled, because sin cannot go unpunished before a Holy God

Worship the Lord with Thanksgiving, You His People (vv.7-15)

- A) The Great "I AM" Testifies (v.7)

- a. v.4 - includes the witnesses (2 or 3 make for irrefutable testimony)
- b. v.21 - clarifies His contention

B) The Heart of the Matter (vv.8-9)

- a. The heart is what matters to God, not the outer show. They are apparently doing the sacrifices
- b. However, due to how they are thinking about, and treating, God their sacrifice is not pleasing to Him and He rejects them...sincerity means nothing here.

C) Idolatry is the Problem (vv.10-13)

- a. Idolatry begins with forgetting that God is God (His works & attributes)
- b. God needs no wealth or sustenance - theologically we refer to this as His independence
- c. Acts 17:24-27

D) Glorify God through the Sacrifice of Thanksgiving (vv.14-15)

- a. This is the Peace Offering
 - i. Thanksgiving, vow, and free-will offerings
 - ii. The only offering where the worshipper and the priest would share a portion of the offering as a communion meal to remember God's provision and covenant
 - iii. This translates to the Lord's Supper / Communion in the New Testament
- b. Atonement was essential for the Thanksgiving offering
 - i. There is no thanksgiving apart from remember the sacrifice

- ii. This battles idolatry because it displays praise to the independent God to whom we are radically dependent

c. **Pray for deliverance**

d. **You will glorify Him**

Be Warned, you Thankless Ones (vv.16-21)

A) God Speaks to the Thankless (v.16)

a. **God now gives great warning to those who refuse to thank Him and follow Him**

b. **God holds them accountable, and they are quite religious**

- i. On what basis (what right) do you recite truth and claim to be in covenant fellowship?
- ii. The only righteousness is from God, the righteous One, and that is found in Jesus Christ.

B) Evidence of the Thankless (vv.17-21)

a. **Despise Discipline**

i. **Proverbs 3:11-12**

ii. **Hebrews 12:6** (quoted)

b. **Ignore the word of God**

c. **Pleasure in Sin**

d. **Unbridled tongue**

e. **Anthropomorphize God**

- i. Fashion God in the likeness of men
- ii. This is, in essence, idolatry
- iii. This is the opposite of gratitude

Thanksgiving is Rooted in Grace (vv.22-23)

A) God is Gracious to Warn

a. **Grace is unrealized where there's no real threat**

b. **He is just to destroy the wicked**

c. **He is the only merciful Savior**

B) God Saves

a. **The Saved are Thankful**

i. The saved will repent

ii. The saved will live it out (before God and the congregation)

b. **Salvation is Revealed to the Thankful Ones**

C) Glorify God, you His Thankful Ones

RESPONSE WITH COMMUNION - 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

A) **The People of His Covenant through the sacrifice of Christ**

B) **Remembered with Thanksgiving to the only God and Savior Jesus Christ**

C) **Remembering the Covenant God has made with you through Christ and self-judging according (so as not to be judged by God)**

D) **God-glorifying act of worship**