

The QBC Daily Nugget March 6, 2010

“The Rules of the Lord are true and righteous. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold” (Psalm 19:9b-10a)

ROMANS 12:1 – I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: A LIVING SACRIFICE. Let’s take a quick spiritual check-up of how our day started this morning. As we awoke to the new day God gave us, what was the direction of our first prayer? What words and petitions made up our utterances heavenward? It could have been audible or simply our hearts pointed toward communion with God. The spiritual check-up is pointed toward where our focus was once we began our day. Here some possibilities, actually, realities. We probably prayed for strength for all we need to accomplish. Not bad, but we might have wanted to thank Him for the strength He has already given us instead of asking for it – “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (**PHILIPPIANS 4:13**). Notice the tense of the verb – present – His strengthening of us is already happening. Another thing we may have prayed for was protection for our loved ones as they go to work, school, or whatever activities are scheduled. Good prayer. Intercession is a vital part and healthy part of our prayer lives – “Ephaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God” (**COLOSSIANS 4:12**). We might even have prayed, “Lord, protect me from my enemies today. I am prone to fall by either my own wayward tendencies, the wiles of the devil, or the attractiveness of the world. That, too, is a great way to start the day. Our Lord showed us that He prays for our spiritual protection also, “I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one” (**JOHN 17:15**).

There is another type of praying which may have happened as we entered into our day. If it didn’t make it into our prayer closet, let’s start tomorrow with it being part of our preparation for the day. It is found in today’s reference and the portion which reads, “Present your bodies as a living sacrifice.” To form that into prayer, it might go something like this, “Lord, I present my body to You for Your purposes today; my hands to work hard for you – “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” (**COLOSSIANS 3:23**), my eyes to look at wholesome things – “Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you” (**PROVERBS 4:25**), my mind centered on serving others – “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus” (**PROVERBS 2:4-5**), and my feet to walk as You walked with compassion and sacrifice for those hurting souls around me – “By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked” (**1 JOHN 2:5-6**).

What happens when we start our days with a single desire to be a living sacrifice for our God as I described in the last paragraph? I think we begin to understand a little what Jesus meant when He said, “I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (**JOHN 10:10**). The prophet Isaiah describes the reward for those who live out being a living sacrifice – “If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail” (**ISAIAH 58:10-11**). Do we want to know the Lord deeper and enjoy Him more thoroughly? Then be a living sacrifice. The reward will be the Lord Himself and He is worthy of a living sacrifice by all of us.

PRAYER: “Lord, help me prove my being a living sacrifice to You by my sacrifice for others.”

QUOTE: SAMUEL RUTHERFORD, “Because I am His own, He may use my as He pleaseth.”