

“The Joy of Being Accepted” — Leviticus 1

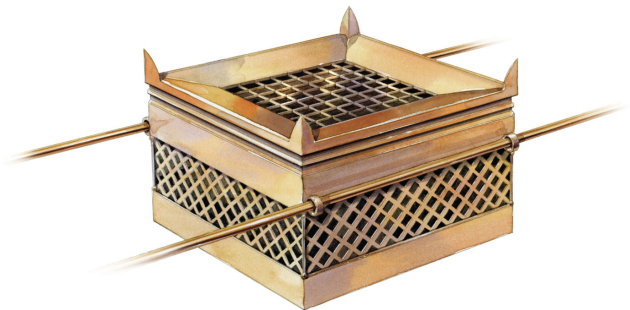
September 13, 2026

Reflection

- Where am I tempted to live as though I still need to earn God’s acceptance? *What would change in my life if I genuinely believed that, in Christ, I am already fully accepted by God?*
- What areas of my life am I still holding back from God? Consider your time, money, relationships, work, comfort, plans, or ambitions. *What would it look like to freely give that area to God?*
- Is my obedience primarily motivated by fear of rejection or gratitude for God’s grace? *How does knowing that Christ has already given himself for you change the way you obey, serve, and worship?*
- What is one concrete way I can worship God with my whole life this week? *What is one specific action you can take—not to earn God’s acceptance, but because you have already received it in Christ?*

From the ESV Study Bible:

The bronze altar for burnt offerings (Ex. 27:1–8; 38:1–7) stood in the outer courtyard with its poles removed. It was a hollow wooden box, overlaid with bronze, measuring 4.5 feet high and 7.5 feet long and wide (1.4 m x 2.3 m x 2.3 m). There was a bronze grating on the top and on the sides of the altar.



Sermon Text: Leviticus 1:1-17

Main Truth: Acceptance changes who you live for.

Main Questions of Leviticus: How can sinful people live in the presence of a holy God?

Two Encouragements from Leviticus 1

1. Look to God for Acceptance (v.1-4)

God is the one who speaks.

God provides a way for sinful people to approach him.

The sacrifice is offered on behalf of the worshiper.

Ephesians 5:2: Christ gave himself for us.

We don't give ourselves completely to God in order to be accepted.

We give ourselves completely to God because we have already been accepted.

2. Give to God Your All (v.5-17)

The burnt offering was a **whole** burnt offering.

A. Acceptable Worship Is Voluntary

The worshiper was invited to bring:

- v.3 - A bull
- v. 10 - A sheep or **goat**
- v. 14 - A bird

God desires **willing** worship, not merely religious activity.

We don't worship God so that he will love us.

We worship God because he has **loved** us.

B. Acceptable Worship Is Costly

The sacrifice represented something **significant** being surrendered to God.

“The point is that no one was barred from access or from worship on the basis of income or ability.” (Allen Ross)

“The events of the exodus are essential to bear in mind. Why would anyone spontaneously offer a gift of great cost to the God who had rescued them from Egyptian bondage? Why would they not? The offering of a whole animal is symbolic of the consecration of one’s whole self to God. Thus, the cost is ultimately not the animal’s value but the utter devotion to God that the offering signifies.” (Geoffrey Harper)

Romans 12:1 “*Present your bodies as a living **sacrifice**...*”

Your whole life belongs on the **altar**.

Ask, “What am I **holding back** from him?”

C. Acceptable Worship Requires Atonement

The worshiper:

1. Places his hand on the animal
2. The animal was **killed**
3. Its blood was offered
4. The sacrifice made **atonement**

“Atonement” is used in 2 ways:

1. **Removal of guilt, purification of sin**
2. **Payment of Ransom, Relational debt paid**

We **worship** because atonement has already been made.

D. Acceptable Worship Pleases God

God delights in the **worship** of his people.

Because we come through Christ, our worship is **pleasing** to God.