

# Hospitality: An Acceptable Sacrifice Pleasing to God

---



# RUF International at UT Austin

---

# Hebrews 12

**28** Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God **acceptable worship**, with reverence and awe, **29** for our God is a consuming fire.

**Heb. 13:1** Let brotherly love continue. **2** Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. **3** Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. **4** Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. **5** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." **6** So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

**Heb. 13:7** Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. **8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. **9** Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. **10** We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. **11** For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. **12** So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. **13** Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. **14** For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. **15** Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. **16** Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

# New Covenant Worship

---

Because of Christ and the new covenant he enacted, we no longer offer animal sacrifices. Although God established animal sacrifices under the old covenant, God's wrath has now been fully satisfied in the atonement of Christ. Thus, animal sacrifices are no longer necessary. It is, however, for this very reason that the writer of Hebrews exhorts his readers to continually offer up pleasing sacrifices *of praise* to God in verses 15–16.

We are not to offer up a sacrifice of blood or of bulls or of rams; it is a sacrifice of praise and worship God now desires...

What does it look like to offer a sacrifice of praise? It looks like “fruit of [our] lips that confess his name...” Our lips are to echo what we believe in our hearts. A continual sacrifice of praise comes out of lips that confess and acknowledge that Jesus is our great high priest.

In verse 16 we are told not to neglect to do good. God is pleased with those who do what is right and meet the material needs of others in the church. Doing good and loving others by sharing what you have are described as sacrifices that please God.

**Albert Mohler Jr., *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews***

# Discussion

---

- What are some examples of “acceptable worship” in this passage?
- Where else in Scripture do we see worship described in a similar way?



# Hebrews 13

**15** Through him then let us continually offer up a **sacrifice** of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. **16** Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such **sacrifices** are pleasing to God.

# Hebrews 13

**2** Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

# Ken and Floy

---

“Then, one ordinary day, I came to Jesus, openhanded and naked. Ken was there. Floy was there. The church that had been praying for me for years was there. Jesus triumphed. And I was a broken mess” (Rosario Butterfield).



Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, **for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

---

Genesis 18:1–15

---

Judges 6:11–24

---

Judges 13:3–24

**Gen. 19:1 ¶** **The two angels came to Sodom** in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth.

**Judg. 6:21** Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. **Judg. 6:22** Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.”

**Judg. 13:15 ¶** Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you.” **Judg. 13:16** And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “If you detain me, I will not eat of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the LORD.” (For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the LORD.)

*Jury Duty  
Presents:  
Company  
Retreat*

---



**Welcome** is the posture—and the practice—of receiving another person with dignity, safety, and gladness.

**Hospitality** is joining in God’s work of creating spaces where people are genuinely seen and known.

Together, they say: “**There is space for you here. You are seen. You are wanted.**”



# Discussion

---

How did welcome and hospitality play a role in your story of faith?

---

How does the fall complicate welcome and hospitality? What makes it difficult?

---

How does the good news of Jesus equip and empower us for hospitality?

lan.Hammond@ruf.org