

ALTAR OF WITNESS

BUILDING AN ALTAR - A LIFE - THAT REFLECTS THE REALITY THAT "...THE LORD IS GOD"

Accountability: Let's hold ourselves accountable!

- Last time we discussed the gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues within the context of the Corinthian church. We learned from Paul that spiritual gifts from God, within the context of a church gathering, are to be used to edify the body of believers.
- Was there an instance this week that you were able to use a spiritual gift (does not have to be tongues/interpretation) in order to edify the body of believers?

Refresh: Let's take a look at our focal scripture again!

- Joshua 22 - Take turns reading the chapter.

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- In this week's study we were introduced to a man named Phineas. His zeal for the Lord was unmatched and his actions demonstrated the lengths he was willing to go in order to keep Israel from turning away from the Lord. What can we learn from Phineas' approach to dealing with the controversy surrounding the 2 1/2 Eastern tribes? (verses 16-20)
- We talked about how an altar is a place where people give devotion, repent, offer thanksgiving, etc. to God through sacrifices. What is our altar today? In other words, from where does our devotion, repentance, thanksgiving, come?
- We went over the idea that these Eastern Tribes were able to build a "replica" altar from three "blueprints:" Scripture, Experience, and Community. We should also use these blueprints to build our own altar - our life - that reflects the reality that "Jesus is King." What do you think happens when we build our lives around:
 1. Scripture and Community **without Experience**
 2. Scripture and Experience **without Community**

3. Experience and Community without Scripture

- Of these options (1-3), what do you think the majority of our culture builds their life around?

Study: Additional scripture for deeper Bible study

- Psalm 86:12 - Where praise comes from
- Romans 12:1-2 - How we should present our lives to God
- 1 Peter 2:5 - How we, as a community, are made together as an altar for spiritual sacrifices.

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

- Verse 34 says that the Eastern Tribes' altar was built as a witness that "the LORD is God." If someone were to look at our lives: How we spend our time, what we put our energy towards, how we treat our family and friends, what we post on social media...would it be a witness that the LORD is God...that Jesus is King? Or would it be a witness of something else?
- Of the three blueprints we talked about on Sunday (Scripture, Experience, and Community), is there one that you need to focus on? Do you need to spend more time reading about Jesus, experiencing Jesus, or being in community with His body - the church.