

## February 2

**Hebrews 13:11-14 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup> The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup> And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. <sup>13</sup> Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. <sup>14</sup> For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Reading the Bible should never become a habit without meaning or a religious duty. It is God's living word that will continually speak to us because as we grow and mature, the Holy Spirit brings us greater understanding and insight. Several times, when I read through the Bible, I am tempted to skip some parts, such as Leviticus (and I have done that from time to time.) However, everything in the Bible is there to teach us about Jesus, sin, sacrifice, and redemption. When offering a sin sacrifice, Moses was to kill the animal, dip his finger into the blood, and sprinkle the blood before the LORD. He then was to pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar to the LORD. The blood brought atonement for the sin. Afterwards, the animal was taken outside the camp because it was sin offering and burned. It was not allowed in the camp because of the sin it carried.

The pattern set forth in Leviticus is the same pattern that has redeemed us from our lives of sin. The blood was the key. Jesus became sin for us. He took our sin upon Himself, shed His blood to make atonement for us, and then was taken "outside the camp" to die a sinner's death. Thus, Paul tells us that if we want to find Jesus, we, too, must go outside the camp. In other words, we will not find Jesus in throne rooms, among the rich and famous, on television, pampered by the world. We will not enter the Kingdom through golden doors escorted by throngs. No, we will find Jesus among the poor, the lost, the destitute, the rejected. We will find Him where He found us – lost in a world that did not care. To find Him, we bear the disgrace He bore, knowing that our true reward lies in front of us – a Kingdom that will never be shaken. When we walk with the Lord Jesus, we do not seek fame, fortune, notoriety, position, or power. We seek Jesus, Who took His place "outside the camp" that we might become part of that camp.