

The Fruit of Our Lips

“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” (Hebrews 13:15)

Introduction

1. As we draw near the end of our study on Grace for Sound Speech, we should consider an important concept in Scripture.
2. What is “the fruit of our lips” and what role does it have in our relationship with and service to God.
3. To understand this expression, we need to know something about the offering of sacrifices.

Discussion

I. An Offering to God.

- A. Hebrews 13:10-14: We eat at the altar of Christ.
 1. Imagery taken from the Law of Moses.
 2. Deut. 12:26-27: Sacrifices offered at the altar were eaten by the offeror and the priests.
 3. Hebrews 10:5-10: The offering of Jesus took away the first, that is, the Levitical sacrificial system.
 4. Hebrews 10:19-22:
 - a. Now, in Christ, we draw near to the presence of God.
 - b. Not with the blood of bulls and goats, from which those who offered and served ate.
 - c. Instead, we “*enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus.*”
 5. 1 Corinthians 10:16-18:
 - a. Vs. 18: “*Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?*”
 - b. Our partaking of the Lord’s Supper is representative of our spiritual partaking of Jesus’ altar, that is, His flesh and His blood (John 6:51-56).
 - c. This is what we are doing when we gather around “the Lord’s table” (vs. 21). This is also why it is called “the Lord’s Supper” (1 Cor. 11:20).
- B. Hebrews 13:15-16:
 1. Therefore, in Christ, because we eat of His offering at His altar, we do not offer burnt offerings of meat and grain.
 2. Rather, by Him and in Him, our offerings consist of “the fruit of our lips,” that is, praises and thanksgiving to God, as well as doing good, and sharing.
 3. Offering the fruit of our lips is fulfilling our ministry and priesthood in Christ.

II. The Fruit of Our Lips

- A. The sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise.
 1. Psalm 69:30, 31: “I will praise the name of God with a song,
And will magnify Him with thanksgiving. *This* also shall please the LORD better than an ox *or* bull, which has horns and hooves.”

2. Psalm 107:21-22: *"Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing."*
 3. Psalm 116:12-19: Vs. 17, *"I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD."*
- B. This is the purpose for which we have been called in Christ Jesus.
1. 1 Peter 2:5-9: Vs. 5, "you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... 9b "that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."
 2. See also Psalm 95:1-2; Psalm 100

III. In Everything Give Thanks

- A. Praise and thanksgiving accompany EVERYTHING we do in our service to God.
1. All sacrifices are to be accompanied "with thanksgiving."
 2. Jonah 2:9: "But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."
 3. Col. 3:17: "And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
- B. 1 Thess. 5:16-18: *"in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*
1. In anxiety: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." (Phil. 4:6)
 2. Eph. 5:20: "Giving thanks always."
 3. Col. 3:15: "Let the peace of God rule in your heart... and be thankful."
 4. Rom. 14:6: Whether eat or don't eat, give thanks.
 5. 1 Cor. 10:30: Eat and partake of food with thanks.
 6. Eph. 5:4: Not speaking evil but giving thanks.
 7. 1 Tim. 2:1: In prayers, supplications, and intercessions, with thanksgiving.

Conclusion

1. The fruit of our lips is more than just praising God.
 - a. It is the fruit of sacrifice.
 - b. It is an offering we give to God always in all things, when in trials or peace, whether in poverty or prosperity.
2. Praising God and giving thanks is what makes everything else we do acceptable to God in Christ Jesus.
3. Consisting of more than just words, it expresses the character of a heart that seeks to draw near to God.
4. Let us, therefore, continually offer to God the fruit of our lips, the sacrifices of thanks and praise in the name of Jesus Christ.