

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> The Papou Study Bible** is a daily study provided by me to



help folks explore the depth and joy of the “conneXion” life of God. It’s my personal study, and is not intended as a doctrinal statement or statement of any church or denomination or congregation. It’s also my belief that “grace” works, and the servant of God should always want to go deeper. Multi-tasking as usual, I’m also calling this the “Papou Study Bible.” I’m writing it as if I were speaking to my girls who love me and any descendant they have that love their Papou too. And to anyone who wants to consider me a spiritual Dad or “Papou.” I want them to be able to study the Bible with Papou (grandpa in Greek) after I’m gone---and if they don’t, I’ll haunt them. The Scriptures say it’s noble to “search the Scriptures daily” to verify truth like the ancient Bereans did (Acts 17:11). My folks came from Berea. My incredible Dad (and your grandfather and great grandfather, guys), Vasil Charles Valekis taught me to do this like he did---every day until I die. He taught me and everyone I know to go to church no matter what and to put God first. While Mama (Maria Pagona Stratakis Valekis) never really did this, she made sure we listened to Daddy on this one. She would have hit us with a spatula or frying pan or worse if we didn’t. This is a simple sharing my “daily search.” And I’d like to think it is a continuation of God’s life through my Dad through me. Both my “Dads” by the way. And a way to honor him, mama and our loving “Dad”---God. And for all of us to be together, in Spirit, even when we I join them in heaven. I like to use

the Blue Letter literal, very “visual,” Greek translation a lot to help “visualize” these truths

the beautiful way Greek enables you to view. And I like to share this with folks serving in an elder capacity, or any capacity, to grow them, challenge them, and stretch them. But especially share it with anyone I’ve ever brought to Christ and family members who truly love me. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*

**Christ IN You Series**

**Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)**

<sup>27</sup>To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory

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**Micah 6 Part 3<sup>2</sup>**



**So God is interested more in how we act than sacrifices we make!**

**Today, I want to do one more Scripture search on this subject---I want to look at the places the New Testament talks about the sacrifices a Christian should still give.**

**And then I want to pick up with one of the most memorable Scriptures in the Old Testament. This little book is full of treasures. Enjoy!**

<sup>1</sup> **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

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Micah 6:6-8 New International Version

<sup>6</sup>With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow down before the exalted God?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?  
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

**As I reread this Scripture, I think of one famous incident where a man very nearly offered his firstborn to God. It's the famous story of Isaac.**

<b>Genesis 22</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<p><b>22</b> Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"</p> <p>"Here I am," he replied.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."</p>	<p><b>Of course, he didn't have to.</b></p> <p><sup>9</sup> When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"</p>
<p><b>After this trial, Abraham called the place "The Lord will provide." The Scripture further offers this thought:</b></p> <p><b>So when we face a big trail we don't know how we're going to get through, we can take heart. What we'll need, we'll be given!</b></p> <p><b>"On the mountain of the Lord"---when you go up to the mountain of the Lord.</b></p> <p><b>"It will be provided!"</b></p>	<p>"Here I am," he replied.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." <sup>13</sup> Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.</p>

**One more concept I want to discuss is how certain sacrifices are encouraged to be made by New Testament Christians.**

**Two places Jesus mentioned sacrifices.**

<b>Matthew 9</b>	<b>Matthew 12</b>
<p><sup>10</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”</p> <p><sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”</p>	<p><b>2</b> At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. <sup>2</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”</p> <p><sup>3</sup> He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup> He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. <sup>5</sup> Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? <sup>6</sup> I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. <sup>7</sup> If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent.</p>
<p><b>Both of this Scriptures references Hosea 6:6.</b></p> <p><b>In one case, God is shown as rubbing shoulders with sinners. Talking about being merciful rather than sacrificial is mentioned in the context of this story. In the Matthew 12 story, the disciples simply being “hungry” is the context being referenced.</b></p>	

**Here are some additional things Jesus said about sacrifices.**

<b>Mark 12:33</b>	<b>Luke 5</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<p>To love him with all your heart, with all your</p>	<p>Then Jesus ordered him, “Don’t tell anyone, but go,</p>	<p><b>Jesus primarily “talked down” sacrifices. He did so in the case of meeting simple human needs like hunger. He showed His approach to the law was far more relaxed than being neurotically</b></p>

<p>understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and <b>sacrifices.</b>"</p>	<p>show yourself to the priest and offer the <b>sacrifices</b> that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."</p>	<p><b>meticulous in keep it.</b></p> <p><b>There is one situation where He told a person that was healed from leprosy to offer sacrifices commanded by Moses. The sacrifices were to be evidence to the priests and the people that the cure was real and that Jesus respected the law. It was also meant to be a testimony to Jesus.</b></p>
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**Other places in the New Testament where the kind of sacrifices a Christian ought to offer is mentioned.**

### **Romans 12:1**

#### A Living **Sacrifice**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living **sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

**Our whole bodies are meant to be living sacrifices.**

### **Ephesians 5:2**

and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and **sacrifice** to God.

**More than one Scripture references Jesus as our sacrifice to God. Here He is also called a "fragrant offering."**

### **Philippians 2:17**

But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the **sacrifice** and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

**Paul saw himself as being "poured out" like a "libation," a drink offering. The CLV says he was "a libation~ on the sacrifice and ministration of your •faith."**

### **Philippians 4:18**

I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable **sacrifice**, pleasing to God.

**Gifts we give to people doing ministry are considered “fragrant offerings” and acceptable sacrifices that please God.**

### **Hebrews 13:15**

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a **sacrifice** of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

**Praise and worship are sacrifices---things that openly profess God’s name.**

### **Hebrews 13:16**

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such **sacrifices** God is pleased.

**Sharing with others are sacrifices.**

### **1 Peter 2:5**

you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual **sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**We offer spiritual sacrifices to God.**

**Instead of sacrifices, this is what God wants!**

<sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly<sup>[a]</sup> with your God.

**We will pick up again on verse 8 next time.**

### **Footnotes**

- a. **Micah 6:8** Or *prudently*