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A Heart That Loves God

*“For I desire loyalty and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”
Hosea 6:6 (HCSB)*

No amount of activity for God will ever take the place of a heart that is right with Him. Through the ages God’s people have been persuaded that they could please Him through their service and their offerings regardless of their heart condition. King Saul offered generous sacrifices, hoping God would overlook his disobedience (*1 Sam. 15:22-23*). David may have assumed that after all he had done on God’s behalf, God would overlook his sin (*2 Sam. 12:7-15*). Ananias and Sapphira thought that their generous gift to the church would compensate for their deceitfulness (*Acts 5:1-11*). Paul was certainly one who had thought his zealousness would please God. After his conversion, however, he concluded that even if he had faith to remove mountains, gave all he had to feed the poor, and offered his body to be burned for the sake of God, and yet had a heart that was not right, it would be for nothing (*1 Cor. 13:1-3*).

We are susceptible to the same misunderstanding as all of these people were. We can be deceived into assuming God is more interested in our activity for Him than He is in the condition of our hearts. **God has consistently made it clear that He will not be pacified by even the most generous offerings and zealous service if our hearts are not right with Him (Mic. 6:6-8).** No matter how much we do in God’s service, regardless of how active we are in our church, no matter how honorable our reputation in the Christian community, He will not overlook a sinful heart. **His desire is that we devote ourselves to knowing Him and loving Him with all of our hearts. AMEN.**

Drs. Henry and Richard Blackaby

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

