**Sacrifice**

***A sacrifice is something that is given willingly for a greater purpose.***

***cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18  thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19  By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”* Genesis 3:17-19**

**We now think that our success is due to our own hard work alone and not a part of God’s blessing.**

I**f we look at our labor as honoring God we will begin to see the innate beauty that can be attached to sacrificial actions.**

**A sacrifice is intentionally placing a resource into the hands of our loving God to be used by Him for his glory not ours.**

***24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.*  1 Corinthians 9:24**

***For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.* 2 Peter 2:19**

**“The church is full of hypocrites” and “the church only wants my money” are the two most common excuses people give for not connecting to a local church.**

***“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”* Matthew 6:24**

**God gives us resources with the expectation that we use them to reasonably meet our needs and to serve one another with them.**

***6 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16**

***we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God,* Hebrews 4:14**

**The nature of our gift betrays the depth or lack depth of thought that went into it.**

**Generosity is about connecting your heart to God’s.**

**Giving is an act of worship so when we give, we have to remember who exactly we are approaching with our gift.**