

## Up In A Puff of Smoke

Sunday Morning, January 24, 2017

**Introduction:** Everyone chooses the life they want to live and the sacrifices it involves, but know this, life is a vapor, it appears and disappears.

### I. Deciding to Be A Living Sacrifice (Romans 12: 1 – 2)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

### (Numbers 15: 1 – 3)

1 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you have come into the land you are to inhabit, which I am giving to you, 3 and you make an offering by fire to the Lord, a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering or in your appointed feasts, to make a sweet aroma to the Lord, from the herd or the flock,

Vs. 2 - New Life in Christ

Vs. 3 -

The Decision to (be a) sacrifice, a vow a sweet aroma.

Does Your Life Involve Personal Sacrifice of Comfort, Convenience, Schedule, Agenda, Goals, Money, Material Goods or Time, When God Requires it of you? \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Living A Sacrificial Life (Philippians 3: 7 – 13)

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, *Note Verse 13 and re-read meaning - That we seek to stand in the righteousness of Christ and set ourselves apart from the darkness and deadliness of this world.*

Are there areas of your life that look too much like the world? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you depending on Christ to live a godly or righteous life? \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Your Sacrificial Offerings

#### A. A Sacrifice of Praise

A Sacrifice of Praise occurs when we sacrifice our time, energy and focus so that we can praise God for how great He is!

**(Psalm 116: 17 – 19)** - 17 I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord. 18 I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, 19 In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

#### **(Psalm 116: 13 – 14)**

13 I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. 14 I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people.

**(Hosea 14:2)** - Take words with you, and return to the Lord. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.

**(Hebrews 13:15)** - 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.

#### B. A Sacrificial Aroma

**(Philippians 4:18)** - Indeed I have all & abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

The Philippians invested themselves wholeheartedly in the things of God.

#### C. A Sacrificial Drink Offering

In the Old Testament a drink offering was poured over the meat offering to conclude the sacrifice offering. The wine poured on the hot coals created a puff of smoke.

#### **(James 4:14)**

Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Life is Like A Vapor. It appears and disappears.

#### **(Philippians 2:17)**

Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

The investment in God's Kingdom work was a significant part of Paul's meat offering.

#### Conclusion:

#### **(II Timothy 4: 6 – 7)**

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Let Us Be That Living Sacrifice  
Until Our Work On Earth is Done!