



Pastor's Comments

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Give God Your Best!

Last Sunday I preached on “**Give God What Is Right...Not What Is Left!**” In Malachi 1:6-14 God charged priests with despising Him by offering unacceptable sacrifices of blemished lambs. God had specified that they were to offer the **first-born** lambs, “Sanctify unto me **all the firstborn**” (Ex. 13:2), and only those **without blemish**, “But whatsoever hath a **blemish**, that shall ye not offer: for it shall **not be acceptable** for you.” (Lev. 22:20).

Why did God require the **first**? The obvious reason is that God must be **first** in our lives as the **first** command declares, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Ex. 20:3). But there is another reason. This sacrificial lamb was a type of Jesus Christ “Who is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn**” (Col. 1:15) “Lamb of God” (John 1:36) Who became the sacrifice for our sin! God gave His **first** and **best** for us – we owe Him no less!

Why did God require **without blemish**? In the context of Malachi 1, God wants us to **give Him our best**. An old hymn says, “*Give of your best to the master, Give of the strength of your youth; Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor Into the battle for truth. Jesus has set the example – Dauntless was He, young and brave; Give Him your loyal devotion, Give Him the best that you have.*” Yet there is another reason. The lamb **without blemish** was a type of Jesus Christ by Whom we have been redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb **without blemish** and **without spot**” (1Peter 1:19). Jesus “Who did **no sin**” (1Peter 2:22) is alone the only **acceptable** sacrifice! The hymn continues, “*Give of your best to the Master, Naught else is worthy His love; He gave Himself for your ransom, Gave up His glory above; Laid down His life without murmur, You from sin's ruin to save; Give Him your heart's adoration, Give Him the best that you have.*”

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