

BBC **Home Bible Study** - 8/18/24 – “**Acceptable Worship: Frankincense or Honey?**” – **1 Peter 2:5**

Question: What kind of worship is “acceptable” to God? – And, to Whom is the worship to be directed?

- God helps us answer these questions with truth from both the Old and New Testaments.

Hebrews 10:1, 9-10 tells us that in the New Testament times that we’re in, God has “perfected” us in Christ, so that we may worship acceptably.

In **1 Peter 2:5**, we’re given a picture of what’s expected of us; individually, *and* as a Church. We are referred to:

- Individually as “*Lively stones*”
- Collectively (*as the Church*) as a “*Spiritual house*”
 - Our “priestly” spiritual duty is to be a holy & prayerful people so we might have relationship with Him;
 - And to worship acceptably - Our worship is directed to the Father, as enabled by the Son (Jesus Christ).

Discussion: 1) What does it mean that the appearance of a house “looks like” the stones (*bricks*) it’s made of?
2) How does Jesus transform us from *regular uncomely* “bricks,” to *bright and lively* bricks?
3) What (*and who*) are “*lively stones*,” that are required to build a true “*spiritual house*”?

God doesn’t leave us to figure out what “*acceptable*” means. Jesus describes it to us in **John 4:23-24**...

- Jesus said, that we’ve now come to the time in history (*the New Testament “Church-Age” era*) when those who are “*true worshippers*” (*genuine re-born believers*), **must** worship Him in spirit and in truth!
- Therefore “acceptable” worship must now be offered in that mode: “*in spirit, and in truth*” (**Philippians 3:3**)
- Where ‘true worshippers’ are worshipping acceptably, *in spirit & in truth*, there is liberty (**2 Corinthians 3:17**)
 - In spirit: **1 Corinthians 14:15** praying & singing with the spirit. / **Romans 8:26** The (*Holy*) Spirit helps us.
 - In truth: **John 17:17** God’s Word is truth. / **Psalms 138:2** God has magnified His Word above all His Name!

Discussion: 1) How then can we worship acceptably *in spirit*? – How does God help us suppress our flesh?
2) And how do we worship acceptably *in truth*? – How important & necessary is the Word of God?

In **Leviticus 2:1-2 & 11**, God laid the Old Testament foundation for what He now demands of us in **John 4:24**...

Acceptable worship: Thanksgiving “meat” (*or “meal”*) offerings were made of fine flour, oil, and frankincense:

- The Priest was to take a *handful* of flour and *some* oil, and **all** of the frankincense to burn in the offering;
- The burning of frankincense produces a very pleasant fragrance;
- Our worship is always tested by God with fire – What comes out of us when we’re squeezed & pressed?

Unacceptable worship: The “meat” offerings could never contain any trace of leaven or honey:

- In the Bible, leaven is always a type and figure of sin;
- Honey is sweet to the taste, but when it’s burned it turns into a foul-smelling black tar-like sticky mess.

Discussion: 1) Is worship to God acceptable to Him coming from a fleshly, sinful, and unrepentant heart?
2) Are sweet and adoring words spoken or sung to God from a dark uncleansed heart acceptable?
3) We are to be the ‘*lively stones*’ of a ‘*spiritual house*,’ given to a prayerful and worshipful lifestyle – Is there any hindering thing in our heart that needs to be confessed and cleansed?