> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.
> *— 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: sacrifice, Jesus, Resurrection, sin

Interpretation:
The verses in *1 Corinthians 15:3-4* are some of the most important and significant in the entire Bible. It reminds us of the sacrifice *of Jesus Christ* on the cross for our sins. It is a constant reminder of the promise of God's love for humanity, His mercy, and His grace.

The meaning of the verses

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the church in Corinth to remind them of the importance of believing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In *verse 3*, he states that *Christ* died for our sins, as the Scriptures foretold. Here, Paul is referring to the prophecies of the Old Testament that spoke *of a Savior* who would come to redeem humanity from its sins.

This is a reminder that our salvation did not happen by chance, but as a result of God's unconditional love and His divine plan for humanity. Christ's death was not an accident, but a deliberate sacrifice for us all.

The death of Christ

The death of Christ is important for many reasons, but one of the most important is that it gives us the opportunity to be forgiven of our sins. We have all sinned at some point in our lives.

But because of Christ’s sacrifice, we can be assured that our sins are forgiven and that we can have a close relationship with our *Creator*. This is a gift that we cannot earn, but is given to us by His grace.

The resurrection of Christ

The second aspect mentioned in *verse 4* is the resurrection *of Jesus*. After three days in the tomb, He rose from the dead. This resurrection is a miraculous and transformative event that proves the deity of

Jesus Christ and His power over death. The resurrection of Christ confirms the truth of the gospel and is the foundation of our Christian faith.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
> *— 1 John 1:7*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: sacrifice, blood, community, Light, purification

Interpretation:
1 John 1:7 focuses on the central concept of Christianity: the cleansing of sins through the blood *of Jesus Christ*. The author of this passage points out that if we walk in the light as *Jesus* does, we can fellowship with other believers, and the blood *of Christ* will cleanse us from our sins.

What does it mean to “walk in the light”?

Walking in the light means living in truth and in obedience to God’s commands. It means having an open mind and heart to receive divine wisdom and to act in accordance with its principles. Walking in the light means we act justly and lovingly toward others, always striving for humility and honesty in our relationships with God and others.

Fellowship and love in community

The fellowship mentioned in this passage refers to more than just a personal relationship with God. It also refers to the importance of belonging to a community of believers who share the same beliefs and values. Fellowship with other believers in God’s light allows us to grow in faith and receive love and support during difficult times.

This verse also calls us to consider the power of the blood of Jesus. The blood of Christ has the power to cleanse our hearts and purify us from all sin. No matter how dirty or unclean our thoughts or actions may be, the blood of Jesus is always available to cleanse us.

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> And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
> — *Ephesians 5:2*

Book: New Testament / Ephesians
Topics: sacrifice, Jesus, love

Interpretation:
Love is one of the central themes of the Bible, especially the New Testament, which speaks of God's love for us and the importance of loving others. In *Ephesians 5:2, the Apostle Paul* encourages us to walk in love, just as *Christ* loved us and gave Himself for us.

What does it mean to love as Christ loved us?

To love as Christ loved us means to love sacrificially and unselfishly. Christ loved us so much that He gave His life for us on the cross, paying the price for our sins so that we could be reconciled to God and have eternal life. He did not put His interests above ours, but sacrificed Himself for our well-being. Paul encourages us as followers of Christ to imitate His love and love others unselfishly.

Why is it important to walk in love?

It is important to walk in love because love is the foundation of our relationship with God and with each other. *Jesus* said, *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35)*. Love is the hallmark of true disciples of Christ. Moreover, love has the power to transform our relationships and our perception of the world. When we love others selflessly, we reflect God's love and are a light in a dark world.

How can we walk in love?

It's not always easy to live in love, especially when it comes to loving those who are hard to love. But the good news is that love is not just a feeling, it's an action, and we can develop it through practice.

Here are some practical ways to walk in love: forgive others, show compassion, be patient and kind, be honest and respectful. We can also look for opportunities to serve those in need and demonstrate the love of Christ through our actions. When we do these things, we are walking in love, just as Christ loved us.

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> For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.
>
> *— Hebrews 10:14*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: sacrifice, Holiness, Holy Spirit, purification

Interpretation:
Hebrews 10:14 is part of a section of the book that talks about *Jesus* as the high priest and His sacrifice on the cross. This passage shows how Jesus made those who are sanctified perfect forever through His unique sacrifice.

First, it is important to understand the context in which this verse is found. The previous and following chapters discuss *the Law of Moses* and its role in the Old Testament. However, this law was not enough to save people from sin, as it was only a shadow of things to come *(Hebrews 10:1)*. It is in this context that the idea is presented that Jesus made a unique sacrifice that made those who are sanctified perfect forever.

The word *“sanctified”* refers to believers *in Christ*, those who have been set apart to serve God and live holy and godly lives. The verse says that Jesus made them perfect forever by one offering. This means that Jesus’ sacrifice not only covered the sins of the believers of that time, but it also covered all future sins and made them perfect before God.

But how can we apply this verse to our lives?

First, we can find comfort and security in knowing that if we believe in Christ, we are made perfect forever. We no longer have to live in anxiety about whether we are good enough or whether we can maintain our salvation. Jesus’ work on the cross is sufficient to guarantee our eternal salvation.

Moreover, this verse calls us to live holy and godly lives, like those who have been sanctified by God. We should strive to live daily in obedience *to God’s Word* and not fall into the temptation of sin. But if we find ourselves in a moment of weakness and sin, we can remember that we are made perfect through the work of Jesus and seek His forgiveness and grace.

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> How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!
>
> — *Hebrews 9:14*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: sacrifice, Jesus, purification, serving, sin, Spirit

Interpretation:
In *Hebrews 9:14*, the writer explains the superiority of the New Covenant and the effectiveness *of Christ's* sacrifice as the perfect *High Priest*. This verse tells us that the blood of Christ, who offered Himself spotlessly to God, can cleanse our conscience from dead works so that we can serve the living God. But what does this mean for us today?

The Need to Cleanse Your Conscience

To understand the importance of cleansing our conscience, we must understand what dead works are. Dead works, in biblical terms, are those actions that lead us to spiritual death and distance us from God. Conscience, in turn, is the faculty by which we are to discern between good and evil, and when we commit actions that are contrary to the will of God, our conscience becomes polluted and prevents us from having a close relationship with Him.

Atonement by the Blood of Christ

But through the blood of Christ, we have access to redemption and can be forgiven for our dead works. His sacrifice made it possible for our conscience to be cleansed and to have a pure and true relationship with God.

Our Responsibility as Christians

However, it is not enough to simply have our conscience cleansed by the blood of Christ. We must also fulfill our responsibility as Christians to keep our conscience free from dead works. This means that we must strive to live according to the will of God, keeping His commandments and avoiding falling into sin.

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> So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.
>
> — *Hebrews 9:28*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: sacrifice, Salvation, Second coming, sin

Interpretation:
Hebrews 9:28 tells us one of the most fundamental truths of the Christian faith: *the Sacrifice of Christ*. The only way for humanity to come close to God and be saved from sin is through *Jesus'* sacrifice on the cross.

Only once

This verse tells us that *Christ* was sacrificed "once." This means that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was sufficient for all of humanity; we don't need another sacrifice because Christ's sacrifice was perfect.

Bear the sins of many

Christ's sacrifice not only cleansed our sins, but also carried them away. He bore all of humanity's mistakes and sins, including our own. Christ's sacrifice gives us the opportunity to be free from sin and approach God with a pure heart.

He will appear a second time

This verse also tells us about the second coming of Christ. He will appear again to save those who are waiting for Him. It is a promise of hope and eternal life to those who believe in Him and look forward to Him.

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> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
> — *John 10:11*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: sacrifice, Crucifixion, Jesus, life

Interpretation:
John 10:11 Jesus is presented as the good shepherd, the one who cares for his sheep and is willing to lay down his life for them. This metaphor of a *shepherd and sheep* was very common in the context in which Jesus lived, since shepherding was of great economic importance in the society of His day. But Jesus used this imagery to teach a deep and timeless spiritual truth.

Jesus calls himself the good shepherd, which implies that there are bad shepherds or thieves who want to take advantage of the sheep and harm them. It is important to note that Jesus calls himself the *only true path* to a full and abundant life. He is the guide who leads the sheep to green pastures and standing waters *(Psalm 23)*, that is, to the abundant life that God has prepared for each of us.

Furthermore, Jesus shows us his love and commitment by saying that He is willing to lay down his life for the sheep. This is the model of His sacrifice on the cross, where He gave His life to save all mankind from sin and death. In this sense, a good shepherd is one who cares not so much for himself as for the welfare of the sheep. Jesus gives His life so that all who believe in Him may have the opportunity for eternal life and the opportunity for a personal relationship with God.

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> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.
> — *John 15:13*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: sacrifice, friendship, love

Interpretation:
John 15:13 is a verse that tells us about the *love of Christ for us*. This love is so great that He was willing to die for us. And ultimately, He gave Himself for us, for our sins!

The love of Christ

The love of Christ is immeasurable, and there is no one in the world whose love is as great as His. He was willing to give His life for us to save us from our sins. This love is beyond anything we can imagine. Christ loved us even when we were sinners and did not deserve His love.

Love for our friends

This passage also teaches us about the love we should have for our friends. Jesus tells us that greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. We should be willing to sacrifice our time, our resources, and in some cases, even our lives for those we love.

It is important to note, however, that we should be careful in choosing our friends and those for whom we are willing to lay down our lives. We should not have friends who lead us into sin, but those who help us grow in our relationship with God.

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> But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'
> *— Jonah 2:9*

Book: Old Testament / Jonah
Topics: sacrifice, gratitude, obedience, Salvation

Interpretation:
The Book of Jonah is one of the prophetic books of the *Old Testament* and tells the story of a man who runs from God, disobeying His call to preach in Nineveh. *Jonah* is eventually thrown into the sea and swallowed by a large fish, where he remains for three days. In this *chapter 2*, Jonah finds himself in the belly of the fish and cries out to God for his salvation.

Thankfulness as a Response to Salvation

Verse 9 is an expression of praise and gratitude to God for His salvation. Jonah acknowledges that it is only by God's grace and power that he has been delivered from the fish and has another opportunity to fulfill his mission. The voice of praise is a sacrifice given to God in recognition of His

grace and love.

The Importance of Keeping Promises to God

Jonah also promises to fulfill what he told God in *verse 9: "But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good."* In this sense, we can understand that offering praise is not only a verbal act, but rather involves concrete actions in accordance with what God has asked.

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> Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.
> *— Luke 23:46*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: sacrifice, death, Easter, Father, Jesus, Spirit

Interpretation:
Luke 23:46 describes the last breath *of Jesus Christ* on the cross, when He cried out to *His Heavenly Father* and gave up His spirit. This moment was extremely important in human history, as it represented the greatest sacrifice of one person for the salvation of others.

Total devotion to God

As we analyze the verse, we can notice key words that show us the position of Jesus Christ in His dialogue with God. The first of these is *"called out with a loud voice,"* demonstrating the strength and determination with which He surrendered His life into the hands of *the Father*. Later, He says, *"into your hands I commit my spirit,"* words that reflect an act of self-surrender and complete trust in the divine plan.

This verse challenges us as Christians to think about how we trust God and how we entrust everything we have into His hands. Often, we cling to our own ideas and plans, forgetting that the will of God is supreme and that we must trust it completely.

The importance of Jesus Christ's death

The fact that Jesus Christ gave His life for us on the cross was an act of unconditional love. At the moment of His death, Jesus took our sins upon Himself and gave us the opportunity for eternal life. Therefore, it is important to remember that Jesus Christ's death on the cross was an irrefutable proof of His love for us.

As we reflect on this biblical passage, we must ask ourselves how we value and cherish this sacrifice in our daily lives. Do we live according to the values ??of Jesus Christ and strive to imitate His example of love and devotion? Do we recognize the price that Jesus paid to grant us salvation?

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> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.
> — *Luke 9:24*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: sacrifice, life

Interpretation:
This verse from *Luke 9:24* teaches us an important lesson that we, as followers of *Jesus Christ*, must remember. In this passage, *Jesus* warns us of the cost of following Him and that we must be willing to sacrifice our lives for His sake.

The first part of this verse says, *“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it.”* Here, *Jesus* is telling us that those who seek to protect and preserve their lives will ultimately lose them. In other words, this earthly life is temporary and we cannot hold on to it. While it is important to protect and value our lives, we should not become fixated on them and make decisions that are contrary to God’s principles just to protect our existence.

On the other hand, *Jesus* says, *“but whoever loses their life for me will save it.”* In this case, our Lord is teaching us that those who are willing to lose their lives for the sake of the gospel will be saved in heaven.

But what does it mean to “lose your life for Jesus Christ’s sake”? It means giving up your selfishness and self-righteousness to live and act in accordance with God’s commandments, even if it means going against social trends or putting your life at risk.

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> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
> — *Mark 10:45*

Book: New Testament / Mark
Topics: sacrifice, humility, Jesus, Salvation, serving

Interpretation:
In *Mark 10:45*, *Jesus* declares the main purpose of His coming to this world: to serve and to give His life as a ransom for all. In this verse, Jesus addresses His disciples and teaches them that power and influence should not be a source of pride and arrogance, but rather a tool for serving others. Jesus shows His followers that true leadership comes from serving and sacrificing for others.

Sacrifice and service

The main message of this verse is the power of service and sacrifice. During His ministry, *Jesus* not only preached about love and mercy, but He also demonstrated it in His actions. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and gave hope to the hopeless. Even in the face of His own death, Jesus showed that He valued serving and loving others more than His own life.

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> To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.
> — *Mark 12:33*

Book: New Testament / Mark

Topics: sacrifice, heart, love, mind, neighbor, strength

Interpretation:
In this Bible verse, *Jesus* teaches us the importance of loving our neighbor as ourselves. According to Jesus, this is more important than any sacrifice or burnt offering we can make in the name of faith. The command to love our neighbor as ourselves is a recurring theme in the Bible, and its importance is reflected in several passages, such as *Leviticus 19:18* and *Matthew 22:39*. In *Mark 12:33*, *Jesus* reminds us of this command and encourages us to live it with our whole being.

How can we apply this command in our daily lives?

Loving our neighbor as ourselves is not easy, but Jesus sets an example for us. He dedicated much of His ministry to helping those in need, healing the sick and feeding the hungry. This command can be applied in many ways. It can start with treating others with respect and dignity, regardless of their background, race, gender, or beliefs. We should be willing to help those in need, compassionate and kind.

We can also put the concept of empathy into practice by treating others as we would like to be treated in a similar situation. We should pay attention to other people's problems and look for ways to help them solve them.

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> “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”
> — *Mark 14:36*

Book: New Testament / Mark
Topics: sacrifice, Almighty, Easter, Father, Jesus, obedience

Interpretation:
Mark 14:36 ??presents us with *Jesus’* prayer in Gethsemane moments before His arrest and subsequent crucifixion. At this point, Jesus is upset and overwhelmed by what is about to happen, so He prays with all His heart to God, asking for His will to be done.

Who is Abba, Father?

In this verse, Jesus addresses God as *“Abba, Father,”* which is Aramaic for *“Papa, Father.”* This language is used to refer to God in a more personal way, reflecting *Jesus’* deep love and emotional connection with *His Father*.

What does “everything is possible for you” mean?

In this verse, Jesus acknowledges God’s omnipotence and His ability to do whatever He wants. However, He also accepts and submits to God’s will. This is an example of how we should always trust God, even when we are faced with difficult situations.

“Take this cup from me”

The *“cup”* mentioned in this verse refers to the bitter experiences that Jesus would have to endure: His arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Jesus did not want to go through these things, but at the same time He knew that they were necessary for the fulfillment *of God’s plan of salvation*. This is an example of how sometimes we have to face painful situations as part of a larger plan that we may not always fully understand.

“Yet not what I will, but what you will”

In this verse, Jesus demonstrates His humility and submission to the will of God. He knew that God had a larger and more important plan than His own wants and needs. This is a call for us to learn to submit and trust in God’s will, even when we do not understand why we must go through certain situations.

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> We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!
>
> *— Matthew 20:18-19*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: sacrifice, Crucifixion, Easter, Jesus, Resurrection

Interpretation:

Matthew 20:18-19 is a prophecy that *Jesus* gave to His disciples about His upcoming crucifixion in Jerusalem. He warns them that He will be handed over to the religious leaders and condemned to death, but that He will rise again on the third day. This is interesting because it shows how aware Jesus was of His destiny, and also demonstrates His courage and divine power that enabled Him to fulfill His mission on earth.

At that time in history, the chief priests and scribes were the Jewish authorities who were against Jesus. They were the ones who handed Him over to the Roman authorities to be tried and convicted of blasphemy. It is clear that even though Jesus performed many miracles and preached the truth to the common people, He was not accepted by those in power.

Reflection of verses

The death and resurrection of Jesus are the most important events in the history of Christianity. Jesus' death was God's way of offering forgiveness and salvation to all mankind. No one else could pay for our sins, so God came to earth to do it. Jesus suffered and died in our place so that we could have eternal life.

Jesus' resurrection is proof that He had the power to conquer death, and a promise that those who believe in Him can also conquer death. Death no longer has power over those who believe in Jesus.

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> Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
> — *Matthew 20:28*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: sacrifice, Jesus, Salvation, serving

Interpretation:
Matthew 20:28 presents one of the most important biblical teachings on service and sacrifice. In this verse, *Jesus* emphasizes the importance of serving others, even to the point of laying down his life for them.

First, it is important to highlight Jesus as the ultimate example of service and sacrifice. He himself says that he came not to be served, but to serve, which means that His main goal was always to help others. Jesus spent His entire earthly life serving those in need, healing the sick, comforting the suffering, and teaching *the Word of God*. Even when He faced death on the cross, He did so out of love for humanity, seeking to save everyone from sin and death.

This example of Jesus' service and sacrifice should inspire us all to follow His path. In our daily lives, we can find opportunities to serve others in many ways. Instead of focusing only on our own needs and desires, we can look for ways to help others. This could be through giving charity, giving advice, or simply listening to someone in need. In doing so, we are fulfilling Jesus' command to serve others.

On the other hand, it is also important to mention the concept of *"ransom"* in this verse. Jesus says that He gave His life as a ransom for many, which means that His death and resurrection have the power to save us from sin and death. This ransom is an act of unconditional love and mercy on the part of God that makes it possible for us to be freed from our condition of sin and death and to have eternal life with Him.

Another important lesson to learn from this verse is that *Jesus* calls himself *"the Son of Man."* This points to His humanity, His ability to suffer and feel pain just like any other human being. This statement shows us that Jesus is not only a divine being, but also close, accessible, and sympathetic to our needs.

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> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said.
> — *Matthew 27:28-29*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: sacrifice, Easter, suffering

Interpretation:
Matthew 27:28-29 are Bible verses that describe one of the most striking passages in the story *of Jesus*. After His flogging, the Roman soldiers placed a crown of thorns on His head and gave Him a

reed as if it were a scepter. This Bible passage challenges us to consider the meaning *of Christ's* suffering.

To better understand the meaning of these verses, it is important to know the context in which they are found. *Matthew 27* tells the story of Jesus' crucifixion and how He was brought before Pilate for trial. After beating and humiliating Him, the Roman soldiers mock Him and place a scarlet cloak on His back before leading Him to the cross. This cloak symbolizes the pain and shame that Jesus felt before his death.

The cruelty of crucifixion

Crucifixion itself was a cruel form of torture used by the Romans to punish criminals. However, the soldiers did not stop there. They added a crown of thorns, implying that the thorns were driven into Jesus' head, causing Him unimaginable pain.

Furthermore, they beat Him with a stick and mocked Him as if He were a king, when in fact He was being sentenced to death for allegedly inciting a rebellion.

Jesus, the humble king

However, it is interesting to see how Jesus responded to this extreme humiliation. He did not become angry or defensive. Instead, He remained quiet and meek, doing the will *of His Heavenly Father*.

This aspect of the story reminds us that Jesus did not come into the world to be an earthly king, but to be *the Savior of the world*. Jesus knew that His true Kingdom was not of this world, but in heaven, where He reigns in glory with His Heavenly Father.

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> But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.
> — *Matthew 9:13*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: sacrifice, mercy, repentance, righteousness

Interpretation:

In this verse, Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees (the church leaders of that time) after healing a paralytic. The Pharisees criticized Jesus for associating with sinners and tax collectors, to which Jesus responded with the phrase, **“I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”**

The Pharisees believe that righteousness consists in offering the sacrifices established by the law, but they forget the words of God, spoken through the mouth of the prophet Hosea: **“I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings” (Hos. 6:6)**. The Lord means that sacrifices and all formal piety without love for others, without deeds of mercy, are worthless in the eyes of God.

"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" or, in other words, the Lord came so that sinners would repent and correct themselves. He came to call to repentance not those who consider themselves righteous and imagine that they have nothing to repent of, but those who humbly recognize themselves as sinners and ask God for mercy.

True, the Lord came to save everyone, including the imaginary righteous, but until they abandon the dream of their righteousness and recognize themselves as sinners, their calling will be fruitless, and salvation is impossible for them.

To summarize, it is necessary to understand and accept that all people are sinners! We must apply mercy in our lives, always thinking about helping our neighbors, and not justifying ourselves by observing all religious laws. Mercy is a call to action, to be attentive to the needs of others and to act when necessary to help those in need, thus we reflect the love that God gave us.

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> To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.
> *— Proverbs 21:3*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: sacrifice, honesty, righteousness

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs is a collection of wise advice on how to live a full and meaningful life in society. In chapter 21, the author confronts us with the idea that doing justice is more important than offering sacrifices to God. This may seem contradictory, since sacrifices were an integral part of the worship of

the people of Israel. What does it mean then that God prefers justice to sacrifices?

The true meaning of sacrifice

To understand the importance of justice and righteousness in sacrifice, it is necessary to analyze the concept of sacrifice in the Bible. Sacrifices were a way to offer something of value to God as gratitude or to ask for His forgiveness. However, they often became meaningless and became a way to please God without a true commitment to His will.

In this sense, sacrifice without corresponding justice and righteousness is in vain. Justice and righteousness refer to appropriate moral actions, acting fairly and wisely in everyday situations. Without justice and righteousness, even the most complex sacrifices are meaningless. If we do not treat others in the world fairly and responsibly, how can we expect God to be pleased with our worship?

Justice and righteousness in everyday life

With this verse in mind, we can think about how we can apply justice and righteousness in our daily lives. Justice means treating others equally, regardless of social status, race, gender, or religion. Righteousness involves making ethical and fair decisions in everything we do.

We can practice justice in our daily lives by respecting others, not taking advantage of the disadvantaged, and avoiding unfair treatment of others. When it comes to righteousness, it is important to carefully consider the consequences of our actions and how they will affect others.

Gratefulness to God

Finally, it is important to remember that justice and righteousness are important not only for their own sake, but also because they reward God. In the Bible, God presents Himself as someone who values ??justice and righteousness. Doing good to others, making a positive contribution to our community, and ensuring that our actions are fair and reasonable at all times are ways we can show our gratitude to God.

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> Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.
>
> *— Proverbs 3:9*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: sacrifice, giving, harvest, money

Interpretation:
Proverbs 3:9 calls us to honor the Lord with all our possessions and the firstfruits of all our fruits. But why is this so important?

First, we must understand that everything we have, including our possessions and property, comes from God. He is the Creator of all things and has blessed us with them so that we can enjoy them and use them for His glory.

However, we often cling to our possessions and treat them as our own, instead of recognizing *that they are gifts from God*. When we honor the Lord with our possessions, we acknowledge His authority, sovereignty, and goodness. We are symbolically saying, *“Lord, all that I have is Yours.”*

What does it mean to give the firstfruits of our fruits?

This verse also calls us to bring the firstfruits of all our produce to the Lord. The word “firstfruits” refers to the first portion of our income or harvest that was offered to God as a sacrifice. This was done in recognition that everything we have comes from Him.

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> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.
> *— Psalm 51:17*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: sacrifice, repentance

Interpretation:
The Bible is full of verses that speak of God's love and mercy. One such verse is found in *Psalms 51:17*.

This verse reminds us that we can't simply offer external sacrifices to God to gain His favor. A broken and humble heart is what God truly seeks, for it demonstrates genuine repentance and devotion to

Him. He tells us that no matter how many external sacrifices we make, unless our hearts are truly repentant and humble, God will not accept them.

Understanding this verse can help us find a closer relationship with God. It encourages us to reflect on the importance of focusing on what truly matters: *our hearts and our relationship with Him*. Often, we focus on external actions like church attendance, giving, or reading the Bible, but forget to keep our hearts repentant and humble before Him.

Psalm 51:17 also teaches us an important lesson about forgiveness and reconciliation. If we want to receive forgiveness from God, it's essential to acknowledge our sins, sincerely repent, and humble our hearts before Him. This demonstrates our willingness to change and follow His ways. Instead of focusing on what we can do externally to earn His favor, we must ensure that our hearts and attitudes toward Him are righteous.

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> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
>
> — *Romans 5:6*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: sacrifice, Jesus, transformation

Interpretation:
Romans 5:6 tells us about one of the greatest acts of love ever performed in human history. *Jesus Christ's* sacrifice on the cross was to save humanity from their sins and give us all the opportunity to live in fellowship with God.

It is hard to imagine the level of love that Jesus had for humanity that He was willing to die for us, even though we did not deserve His love and His sacrifice.

The weakness of humans

This verse also shows us the state of weakness that humanity was in before the coming of Jesus Christ. We were unable to save ourselves because we were trapped in our sins and far from divine grace.

However, Christ gave us the opportunity to redeem ourselves, be forgiven, and draw closer to God. This is a reminder that our human strength is limited and we need God's help to overcome life's challenges.

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> Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.
> *— Romans 6:13*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: sacrifice, conversion, righteousness, serving, sin

Interpretation:
Romans 6:13 is a call to holiness and righteousness. In this passage, the *Apostle Paul* tells godly Christians that they should avoid giving in to the temptations of sin and instead focus on living righteously and holy lives in the Lord.

Present your members to God

The first part of the verse calls us not to present our bodies to sin. This means that we are not to allow our actions and behavior to be influenced by human weaknesses that separate us from God.

Instead, we are to offer our bodies and minds to God as instruments of justice. It is important to note that this call is not simply a restriction on our actions, but an expression of worship and obedience to God.

Alive from the dead

The second part of the verse shows us God's power over death. The Apostle Paul calls us to present ourselves *"alive from the dead"* so that we can experience the eternal life that God offers us through *Jesus Christ*. The life of a believer is a life of resurrection: we rise from our former way of life and devote ourselves to living according to the will of God.

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> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?
>
> *— Romans 8:32*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: sacrifice, Father, receiving

Interpretation:
Romans 8:32 is one of the most significant and profound chapters in the Bible. *The Apostle Paul* connects justification by faith in *Jesus Christ*, the work of *the Holy Spirit*, and the assurance of eternal salvation. This verse highlights the greatness of God’s grace and generosity toward us.

The sacrifice of Jesus

God gave His beloved Son to die on the cross and thus paid the price we would have to pay for our sins. The Father did not seek a substitute on whom to vent His wrath, but gave *His one and only Son (John 3:16)*.

So great is God’s love that He did not spare His Son for our benefit. Jesus’ death was a sovereign act that changed human history forever.

God's generosity

In the same verse, Saint Paul expresses the thought that if God gave His Son for us, how can He not also give us all things with Him? This means that God not only forgives us, but also gives us His love, His grace and His generosity.

Moreover, this attitude of God is an evangelical message that transcends eras and cultures. God's generosity is universal and is a sign of His unconditional love.

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> Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.
> — *Titus 2:14*

Book: New Testament / Titus
Topics: sacrifice, goodness, purification, Redeemer, sin

Interpretation:
Titus 2:14 is one of the most important verses in the Bible for Christians because it contains the very essence of *salvation and redemption through Jesus Christ*. This passage tells how God, through His Son Jesus, gave Himself to redeem us from all evil and to purify for Himself His people, zealous for good works.

The word *“redemption”* in this verse refers to the release from sin and guilt that bind us and separate us from God. Jesus Christ, through His sacrifice on the cross, redeemed us from our sins, gave us new life in His name, and saved us from eternal damnation.

On the other hand, the word *“purify”* refers to the inner transformation that occurs in us as we draw closer to God and accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. As we are cleansed by the grace of God, we are transformed into new beings, free from sin and more like Christ.

But what does it mean to be God’s people? This expression refers to those who are redeemed and cleansed by the grace of God and live according to His will. *That is, those who accept Jesus Christ as their savior and live according to His teachings become God's people*.

Furthermore, *Titus 2:14* also mentions that these people should be zealous for good works. This means that those who are saved should strive to do good and serve others, following the example of Jesus Christ. Christian faith is not only faith, but also actions and good deeds in the world.

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