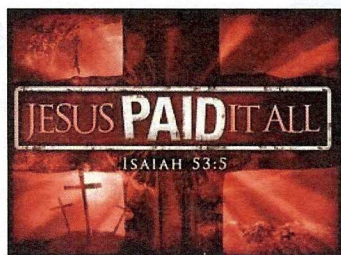




Sacrifice: When Nothing Else Matters

It was **not** the obligation or duty of Jesus to die for us. His sacrifice was wholly a matter of love. It is His incomprehensible willingness to love the unlovable that staggers the mind. A love publicly manifested by His giving up heaven's glory to enter a hostile and sinful world as a man rejected, ridiculed and condemned to die unjustly. The innocent for the guilty, to set them free, forever declares His humiliation and voluntary sacrifice on our behalf.



There are only two reasons that love motivated Jesus to sacrifice Himself on our behalf. Namely, His love for God and His love for God's creation – nothing else mattered (Hebrews 10:5-7). We must understand this, without that sacrifice is impossible! Nothing else mattered in his love but God and people – not His physical comforts (Luke 9:58); not His personal preferences (Matthew 26:42); not even His intense longing to be with His Father in Heaven apart from going to the cross (Luke 5:16).

Only when nothing else matters but God and people will God's people come to know the true meaning of sacrifice. Until then, the work of the local church will suffer want at the hands of physical comforts, personal preferences and longing to be elsewhere. We are not called to duty or convenience but to conviction and sacrifice that willingly serves through love. "And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ... No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'" (Luke 9:23, 62) If we learn to sacrifice because nothing else matters but God and people, then our light will always shine. *Bill Robinson*

Bill Robinson, who spoke to us recently and who, among others, we are considering to be our next evangelist, will be here again April 21-23 with his wife and will speak for us both morning and evening services on Sunday, April 23. Please make every effort to attend both services if possible.

The logo for "prayer request" features a stylized blue leaf on the left. The word "prayer" is in orange, "request" is in blue, and the entire text is in a bold, sans-serif font.

Jess Hart is in Baptist East room # 103 with fluid in his lungs.

Gary Hart Has been very sick and is home.

Steve Hart Has been very sick at home

Betty Burch is recovering from successful shoulder surgery.

Bud Porter is recovering from a triple heart bypass surgery and goes for a check up Tuesday..

Pam & Mike: Pam's mother Lois Wright

Please remember Pam & Mike Howard in your prayers along with Pam's mother, Lois Wright. They will be making some decisions about her future care. Also, Pam may be missing some services to stay with her mother.

Stephen Guy, Ollie Robinson, Helen Darnell, Jess and Pat Hart, Connie Howe