

Living "self" with "less" not "ish"
Phil. 2:17-18

1. A Selfless life is worth _____.

Philippians 3:17

Join in imitating me, brothers and sisters, and pay careful attention to those who live according to the example you have in us.

This wasn't a statement of arrogance!

I hear many say, "don't look at me, look at Jesus."

Paul, assumed responsibility for his actions, attitudes and life.

He said, "look THROUGH me and see Jesus."

1 Corinthians 11:1

Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.

This is true discipleship. It is life on life.

This is the essence of a selfless life.

Paul gave his life, his all. He gave sacrificially.

He learned that true joy in life is not having satisfying selfish desires but sacrificing your life for the good of others and the glory of God.

Selfish

self-absorbed, self-centered, self-concerned, self-interested, self-seeking, self-serving, looking out for number one

Selfless

self-forgetting, unselfish, self-giving, self-sacrificing, self-renouncing

2. What is a _____ Offering?

Drink Offering - Libation

The pouring out of wine, water or honey to honor a deity.

Numbers 15:7

Also present a third of a gallon of wine for a drink offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

We notice a couple of things.

1. It was primarily with _____ offerings.
2. It is a pleasing _____ to the Lord.

Burnt Offering

The burnt offering symbolized the offeror's voluntary giving of them self to God, just as Christ fully submitted to the will of God.

Putting this altogether.

A drink offering was never alone in the Israelite worship system. It was usually with a burnt offering. That offering was a voluntary offering of willing sacrifice to God. The drink offering then made this offering sacred and set it aside to worship God and seeing it as sacred.

“The sacrifice and service of your faith”

You could say it this way – your sacrificial service coming from your faith. The word for sacrifice is the same word used in _____ 12:1.

Service has the meaning of service done for God.

This means that the work the Philippians did for God was considered an act of _____.

3. _____ as a drink offering – vs. 17

Paul's drink offering was also made on behalf of his spiritual family in Philippi, an offering made upon their sacrificial service.

The use of this terminology reveals Paul's _____ about his own importance. In the ritual, the sacrifice was primary; the drink offering was secondary.

He saw his ministry as a privilege and honor to be poured over their changed sacrificial lives and service – which he saw as the greater sacrifice!

And if you are not involved in _____ to God – you are missing out in one of the greatest acts of worship that God has created.

Selfless service for Christ is a sacrifice only in the sense of being an offering to God. It is never a sacrifice in the sense of being a ___ or losing out in something. A believer can never sacrifice anything for the Lord that is not replaced with something more infinitely valuable and satisfying.

2 Corinthians 4:17

For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.

4. The _____ of being a Drink Offering – vs. 18

It's not joy in spite of, it is joy _____ of!
Can you grasp what he is saying?

Bring a Drink offering upon the sacrifice of the Philippians brought him tremendous joy.

Paul not only is a model for selfless, sacrificial service but also for the joy that service produces.

Paul wanted his friends at Philippi to experience the same joy he had and to be glad and rejoice with him.

Paul got it. He understood what, so few Christians get today.
The highest expression of life is to give it away in sacrificial service to our God; therefore, the greatest joy on earth is to fulfill that _____.

This joy was not designed to enjoy _____ but corporately.

Life should not be dictated by circumstances but by our belief that God is in control.

Living life with its ups and downs will create _____.
Instead live life in and out. As God works in us – we work it out!

Application:

We interpret life as it affects ourselves and not on how it affects the glory of God.

Self-preservation is the ultimate tool of a combination of fear and selfishness.

A selfless life is one looking to be a drink offering on the sacrifice of another that God has allowed us to see the Holy Spirit change.

We as a drink offering are never alone in God's worship system. We are poured upon an offering of sacrifice to God. We then make this offering sacred through God's principles and set them aside to worship God and seeing them as sacred.

If we believe this – it will drive us to our knees and beg God for revival and change in our lives and in the lives of those we serve.

It will bring unity and interdependence.