



On Wednesdays this month we're looking at worship
"then and now." **Hebrews 12:28** issues a clear call...

...and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship,
 with reverence and awe...

...but **how** should we answer that call? There's a big
 difference between worship "then" and "now."

Throughout the Old Testament, we read about God's
 people building altars **"to the LORD"**:

- ❖ Noah (**Gen 8:20**)
- ❖ Abraham (**Gen 12:8**)
- ❖ Isaac (**Gen 26:25**)
- ❖ Jacob (**Gen 35:7**)
- ❖ Moses (**Exo 17:15**)



In fact, God made a precious promise in connection
 with altars and sacrifices made to him:

"...I will come to you and bless you."
(Exo 20:22-24)

For the next 1,500 years, the Israelites would offer
 animal sacrifices—**lots** and **LOTS** of sacrifices. Until...

**"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin
 of the world!"** (**John 1:29**)

With the sacrifice of Jesus as **"the Lamb of God,"**
 something changed.

...Christ ... offered for all time a single sacrifice for
 sins... (**Heb 10:12**)

Does that mean **all** sacrifices for all time are done? No.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies
 of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
 holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual
worship. (**Rom 12:1**)

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Thinking back to examples of people like Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses... what were they doing? What were they communicating and teaching by building altars?
- Why animal sacrifices? Where did that even begin? **Genesis 3:7, 21** and **Hebrews 9:22** might be helpful here...
- And yet, animal sacrifices were limited in a very important way. What *couldn't* they do? **Hebrews 10:1-4** offers important insight...
- So what was needed? And according to **Hebrews 10:5-7**, how did Jesus provide the answer?
- Take a look at **Hebrews 13:10-15**. In your own words, what do disciples of Jesus need to understand?
- If Jesus offered **"for all time a single sacrifice for sins,"** (**Heb 10:12**) why does it matter how I live?
- Practically speaking, what does it mean to **"present"** my body **"as a living sacrifice"**?