

**EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK OF  
LEVITICUS**

**Group Bible Study 8**

**VERSES TO READ:**

**John 1:29**

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

**1 Peter 3:18**

18 For Christ also has suffered once for sins, the Righteous on behalf of the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, on the one hand being put to death in the flesh, but on the other, made alive in the Spirit;

**1 Peter 2:24**

24 Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed.

**1 John 2:2**

2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for those of the whole world.

**Matthew 26:28**

28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

**1 John 1:9**

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**DISCOVERY PORTION:**

**APPRECIATING CHRIST AS THE  
REALITY OF THE TRESPASS  
OFFERING**

Our sins, our trespasses, have been taken care of by Christ as our trespass offering. As we have pointed out, we have not only the problem of sin in our flesh, but also the problem of the many sins we have committed. We have done many wrong things. For example, instead of honoring our parents, we may have despised them. This is sinful. We all have committed many trespasses, transgressions, offenses, and wrongdoings. All these are sins. When the Lord Jesus died on the cross to deal with our sin, He also bore our sins. First Peter 2:24 says, "Who Himself carried up our sins in His body onto the tree." This verse clearly indicates that Christ bore our sins. In 1

Corinthians 15:3 Paul declares, "Christ died for our sins." Moreover, in Hebrews 9:28 we are told that Christ was "once offered to bear the sins of many." By these verses we see that when the Lord was on the cross, He not only dealt with our sin, but also bore our sins. Therefore, He is both the sin offering and the trespass offering.

When we believed in the Lord Jesus, we received Him as our Redeemer. This implies that we received Him as our sin offering and trespass offering. Receiving the Lord Jesus as our Redeemer includes receiving Him as both the sin offering and the trespass offering. Often we say that the blood of Jesus cleanses us. This blood is the blood of the sin offering and of the trespass offering. In 1:7 John speaks of the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin. This is the blood of the Lord Jesus as both the sin offering and the trespass offering. Now that we have believed in Christ, we have Him as the Redeemer, the One who is our sin offering and trespass offering. Therefore, both sin and sins have been dealt with. We have been forgiven by God, and we have been washed, cleansed, by the Lord's blood. As we have pointed out, the blood of Jesus is the blood of the sin offering and the trespass offering. We all have believed in Christ and accepted Him as our sin offering and trespass offering.

## **THE NEED FOR THE CONFESSION OF SINS**

The Bible does not teach that sin has been eradicated from our being. 1 John 1:8 says, “If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” To say that we do not have sin is to say that we do not have indwelling sin within our nature. This is something taught by the Gnostic heresy. This sinning interrupts their fellowship with God. If after regeneration the believers do not have sin in their nature, how could they sin in their conduct? Even though they sin only occasionally, not habitually, their sinning is an adequate proof that they still have sin working within them. Otherwise, there would be no interruption of their fellowship with God. We should not say that we no longer have sin. Sin remains in our flesh, in our sinful nature.

Can we still commit sin after we are regenerated? Yes, a believer can still sin after he has been regenerated. In 2:1 John says, “My little children, these things I write to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous.” John’s words “if anyone sins” indicate strongly that we can still sin after we are saved.

Even though we have been saved and regenerated and are under the transformation of the Holy Spirit, it is still possible for us to sin. Since we can still sin after we are saved, we need to confess our sins (1:9).

### **DEALING WITH SINS**

We should confess our sins both to God and to man. To confess our sins to God is to come before Him and to confess everything that we have done that offends Him. Every sin that we commit offends God, whether the sin is against God or against man. We may think that David sinned only against man and offended man when he usurped the wife of Uriah and had him killed, but David acknowledged that he had sinned against God and man (Psa. 51:1-17). Therefore, David confessed his sin to God. Before he confessed his sin to God, he suffered, but when he did not hide his evil and confessed it to God, he was forgiven by God and surrounded with the ringing shouts of deliverance. This caused him to be full of joy. Thus, if we want the joy of salvation, we must confess our sins before God.

Many have repented and were saved but have never thoroughly confessed their sins before God. Therefore, they do not have

much joy of salvation or spiritual hunger, thirst, pursuit, or growth. If we want to richly taste the Lord’s joy of salvation, we must come before the Lord and thoroughly confess our sins. We cannot bring a bag of sins to God, throw it down before Him, and forget about it. We must open the bag of sins before God and mention each sin; we must open the bag and thoroughly confess each sin one by one. We must ask God to search us, enlighten us, and expose all our sins so that we might see them and confess them to Him one by one. He wants us to realize how we have offended our parents, brothers, and sisters; how we have wronged our wife or husband and children; and how we owe our teachers, fellow students, friends, relatives, and neighbors. If we let Him enlighten us, He will uncover all our sins and enlighten us. When we become aware of a sin, we should confess it to Him. We should confess our sins one by one until we feel that we do not need to confess anything more. If we practice this, we will be able to thoroughly confess our sins to God. This is not related to our salvation; it is related to our living after salvation. It is not a requirement for salvation but a condition for spiritual growth. Receiving of the Lord’s salvation is not based on this kind of confession; however, those who have received the Lord’s salvation should confess their sins in this way.