**THANKSGIVING**

**Leviticus 7:11 – 15**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Once again, Thanksgiving is upon us.

2. [We] look beyond the holiday to the THANKSGIVING concept from a Biblical Perspective.

 A. The 1st reference is in the description of the THANKSGIVING offering.

 1. NOT just an ancient ceremony, BUT showing the true value of a Thankful HEART.

 B. Through it, [we] learn how God Expects us to practice “THANKFULNESS”.

 1. Thanksgiving is a key ingredient of PEACE.

 A. It is part of "the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings" (Lev 7:11).

 B. It is necessary for the PEACE of God to rule in our HEARTS (Col 3:15).

**BODY:**

**1. MUST BE MADE FOR ALL THINGS**

 A. The thanksgiving offering, already alluded to, was a multiple offering with many different items offered together (Lev 7:12, 13).

 B. As Christians, we are to "give thanks always for all things unto God" (Eph 5:20).

**2. MUST BE MADE FOR THE WORST THINGS**

 A. THANKSGIVING offering included an offering of "leavened bread" (Lev 7:13).

 1. Leaven (yeast) in the Bible for negative things like sin, false doctrine and evil events.

 2. Including leaven means [we] are to be THANKFUL for the bad things in our LIFE.

 B. [We] are to be THANKFUL for even the worst things that happens to occur.

 1. "…glory in tribulations" (Rom 5:3)/"take pleasure in infirmities" (2 Cor 12:10).

 2. "…count it all joy" when we fall into temptations (Jas 1:2).

 C. This kind of THANKFULNESS separates the BELIEVER from the lost.

 1. Even the lost are THANKFUL for those things perceived to be good.

 A. It takes FAITH to be THANKFUL for things [we] see **NO** good.

**3. MUST BE AN OFFERING UNTO THE LORD**

A. Part of the offering was to be "an heave offering unto the Lord" (Lev 7:14).

 1. The priest stretch his hands toward heaven as a sign of presenting it unto God.

 B. [True] THANKSGIVING is offered directly unto God.

 C. God Accept the sacrifice of THANKSGIVING as a special offering, if…(Heb 13:15, 16).

**4. MUST BE OFFERED ON THE BASIS OF THE BLOOD**

 A. The THANKSGIVING offering was offered with the sprinkling of the blood (Lev 7:14).

 B. The sprinkling of the blood was a type of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross (1 Pet 1:2).

 C. Christ’s Shed Blood is the foundation of THANKSGIVING of a Christian (2 Cor 9:15)

**5. IS THE BASIS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

 A. The Peace Offering was enjoyed as a fellowship meal [priest/people joining] (Lev 7:15).

 B. THANKSGIVING draws us closer to God and to other saints (Psa 35:18).

**6. MUST BE OFFERED FRESH EVERY DAY**

 A. The THANKSGIVING offering must be eaten the day offered; none left for another day.

 B. The act of THANKSGIVING must be a present practice.

 1. Yesterday's will **NOT** suffice for today; today's can**NOT** be held over for tomorrow.

 2. [We] must be THANKFUL each day (Psa 118:24).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Do you practice thanksgiving in your daily life?

2. Is it an integral part of your relationship with God?

3. Do you need to confess your unthankful Spirit?