



Servant's Corner

December 2013

How Can We Say Thanks?

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

If you've read the book of Hebrews, you know that the author puts forth Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament sacrificial system. From reading the epistle, one might get the idea that since Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice to redeem us, there is nothing left for us to do. Interestingly enough, the author of Hebrews says this is not the case. As he concludes his letter, he tells Christians that there are two sacrifices that are appropriate as an expression of our gratitude to the God who did so much for us.

The first is praising God with our lips. *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. Hebrews 13:15.* There is no reason our focus on thanking the Lord has to stop on Thanksgiving Day. Why not carry that same intentionality about giving thanks throughout Advent? In fact, I get the idea that giving thanks is not supposed to be a seasonal activity, but a daily habit.

The second appropriate sacrifice is found in verse 16. *And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16.* "Doing good" focuses on using our time for acts of service to others. "Sharing" has to do with giving our money and possessions to those in need. We are warned not to neglect these things. Why the warning? Because it's easy to neglect them. Notice what the author of Hebrews says about serving and giving to help those in need—it is a sacrifice that pleases God. As we enter the Advent season, remember that giving thanks to God and helping people in need are two sacrifices Christians can make to a God who made the ultimate sacrifice for us.



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