

“Offer It To Thy Governor”

By: Elder David Pyles

And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts. – Mal 1:8-9

In this admonition the Lord gave to the Jews of old, He asked whether their service to Him would be acceptable if offered to their governor instead. The sensibility of this test is more than any reasonable mind would dare deny. If the dependability of our church attendance would not be acceptable to our boss, or if the timeliness of our arrival at church would get us fired, or if our faithfulness in giving would land us in jail when applied to our taxes, etc, then, clearly, we cannot claim with any propriety that the Lord is our first priority.

Indeed, rather than being put first, many Christians could be rightly asked whether *anything* on their list of priorities rated lower than service to God. They attend church only if family, football, vacation, job, school, etc. do not otherwise occupy their time. Service to God clearly is not their first priority. Could it possibly be their last? Paul said, *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service,”* (Rom 12:1-2). He did not say to present our bodies *unless* or *until* it becomes a sacrifice, though this seems to be the policy of some.

Jesus said, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you,”* (Mt 6:33-34). By “these things” He meant the material things of life. If the kingdom of God is not put first, then the suggestion is that “these things” will not be added. Perhaps this will explain why real wages in America have not increased in 40 years; why poverty rates are rising, and why the wheels of the economy seem to be spinning in the mud.