

A Pleasing Sacrifice

Mark 9:49

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In another article, we considered the first thought of this perplexing verse. In view of the context beginning at verse 38, the beginning of verse 49 is probably speaking of the trials of life which each believer must face. Listen to the Lord. "For everyone will be seasoned with fire,..". Fire purifies. Temptations and trials of life are a fire, testing and proving our faith.

Now let's add the rest of the verse. "For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt." Under the law of Moses, sacrificial offerings to the Lord were seasoned with salt (Leviticus 2:13). Salt is both a flavoring and a preservative. In this Christian age, Jesus Christ is our offering for sin, but you and I are also sacrificial offerings. Romans 12:1 says, "...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God,..". If I am the sacrifice, what then is the salt with which I am seasoned. The overall context suggests that it is those things I have given up to remove sin from my life. No matter how good my life, it can never be a sacrifice worthy of God. But, as I give up things of this life I hold dear in order to draw closer to God, things which distract me from godly service, my life is seasoned with grace, made more acceptable as a sacrifice to God.

Can we learn the importance of laying our lives before our God, a sacrifice seasoned to His taste? Can we realize everything we are and do rises to God's nostrils as an odor either of a pleasing sacrifice, or of the rottenness of sin. Which are you?