

1 Sam 15:22-23

Then Samuel said:

*"Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
As in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.
For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
He also has rejected you from being king."*

How often do we give to the Lord, whether it is money or time, wanting to earn favor with the Lord?

We think, "Maybe I'll give 15% instead of 10%, God will be real proud of me then." Or "Maybe I'll serve in the homeless shelter this weekend instead of going golfing or to the amusement park."

Now don't get me wrong, these things are good, but what does God really delight in? Verse 22 spells it out for us plainly.

† *Then Samuel said:*

*"Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
As in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams."*

Because you can give all your money and all your free time to help others, but if you are disobedient to the Lord, it all means nothing.

† **Matt 7:21-23** *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

I think of these worldly musicians and actors and actresses who will give a huge amount of money, or spend a little time with those in need, but they obviously are disobedient to the Lord, and teach others to do the same in what they sing about or portray on the big screen or TV. Yet, we think how great they are and how nice they are for doing these things.

Just because a pig gives a string of pearls to a poor person does not make him any less of a pig. Neither does someone who gives a bunch of money, or time, make them any less of a sinner, and it won't get them one step closer to heaven.

† **Psalm 51:17** *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart--These, O God, You will not despise.*

So do these things, but do them in obedience to the Lord, not to earn brownie points with Him!