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Faith Bible Church
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<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (52)
ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #43
(DDR #671)

Objection #43: Scripture clearly tells us that “to do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord that sacrifice” (Prov 21:3).

Brown’s short response to this objection:

Amen! Who would argue with Scripture? Elsewhere the Bible teaches that obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22). But these passages do not denigrate the importance of sacrifices, as some anti-missionaries would claim. Rather, throughout the Bible God opposes religious hypocrisy and formal outward observance of religious rites. He would rather have our simple obedience than our lengthy prayers or costly sacrifices if our hearts are not right with him. And he prefers that we just do what he says rather than sin, repent, and bring a sacrifice for our sins. The sad fact is that we all sin grievously and we all need atonement for our sins, a subject that Scripture clearly affirms and teaches.¹

As Brown points out, Proverbs 21:3 (and a host of other passages where it *seems* on the surface that God is not interested in sacrifices) is not a repudiation of the sacrificial system that is so integral to authentic Judaism. Rather, in passages where God is “coming down hard” on their sacrifices, He is condemning superficial or lip-service sacrifices. The idea that any person is able “to do what is right” in a way that would replace the need for a sacrifice is totally foreign to the Judaism with all of its sacrifices established by God Himself.

Of course, we know why modern Jews want to get away from the need for sacrifice.

Don’t we? to acknowledge the real need for sacrifice would expose them to their need for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, especially when they have not had a temple or sacrifices since A.D. 70.

¹Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections—Volume 2*, (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), 69-71. In his book, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response that is followed by a more developed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response, after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his longer responses (there is far too much material to include in the DDRs).

What a blessing it is live in the security of Jesus Christ and His perfect sacrifice for all of our sins and shortcomings (-R). Because we never have to worry about our salvation, we are free to enjoy a life of freedom. A life that can really enjoy His unbounded grace. What a deal!☺

On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don

Hebrews 10:12 but He [Jesus Christ], having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,