

June 22, 1994, Morning Sacrifice Boston

A Sacrificial Love 2

(We sang, “Behold How good and how pleasant it is, for brothers to dwell together in unity.”)

We’re a mountain of Zion — that’s a high place of worship. The Edah is the mountains of Zion. We can never be disappointed — we have life everlasting.

What makes it pleasant? We’re part of what makes it pleasant, not unpleasant. Are we part of what makes it pleasant for our brothers and sisters to dwell in unity? Are you a part of what makes it pleasant? Are you a part of what really makes it pleasant? It’s caring for each other, isn’t it? How do you know you have life everlasting? What makes it plain? That we have a sacrificial love for one another.

Our sacrificial love for one another is what makes our life pleasant. What is a sacrifice? It is giving up something of value (your most precious possession) for something you want more. It is not putting \$10 in the collection place on Sunday or giving up one or two hours a week to come to a meeting. This is not evidence that we have passed out of death and into life. The only evidence is having a sacrificial love for one another for His purpose (sacrificing our life for Him). This disqualifies all of Christianity.

So what’s a sacrifice? Laying down your life for one another. That’s a sacrificial love. How do you get it? By believing in the Son of God with all your heart and giving up your life. We make ourselves worthy of Him, Acts 13:47-48. Many people are unworthy of eternal life. Many people in Brazil when they heard the good news, wouldn’t give up their family. Their mother said, “No! You can’t go. You’ve got to serve me for the rest of my life.” They had control over an adult’s life. Many didn’t have the faith to give up mother, father, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives, children. No one is worthy of Messiah who doesn’t give up everything to follow Him. We love Him with a sacrificial love. We can’t love this way if we don’t have the Holy Spirit, Rom 8:7-9. You can try and try, but you can’t do it. Many people have come and gone in the Body because they wouldn’t love — or couldn’t. It’s not that they couldn’t love, but

they wouldn't pay the price to make themselves worthy of eternal life. They didn't want to be a disciple — they weren't willing, John 7:17. Unless we believe in Him enough to give up everything — we are not worthy (suitable, compatible, comparable) of Him. Because we were willing and faith came to us we could give up our own life we have the power to love sacrificially. Isn't it wonderful to be a part of what makes it pleasant?

We belong to Him — we are His possession. If someone saves your life, you are indebted to them for the rest of your life. You love them and you do what they want you to do — not because you have to, but because you want to. We didn't have His love before — Rom 5:5 — but now we do. Rom 8:9 says we can't do it unless we belong to Him. BELONG — a wonderful word like a place to belong. All who belong to Him can give thanks to Him. All can belong to Him if they want to. He died for all — that must mean you and me. Are you included in the all who are still living? 2 Cor 5:14-15. So how do you know you belong to Him? By not living for yourself anymore. By being a part of what's pleasant. You say, "I commit my life to my Sovereign, Yahshua" and so are transferred out of Satan's kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. We belong to another Master now. We are no longer part of the problem, but we are part of the solution.

At baptism we gave up our lives. Baptism is like dying. He had to die to get us. In order to get Him we have to die also. If someone saves your life you're indebted to them. He gave us His Holy Spirit and now we have His life. Now He's got us — we're His possession. He poured His love out in our hearts, Rom 5:5; Eph 1:13.

We belong to Him. It is a wonderful thing to belong to Him. All who belong to Him — let's give our sacrifice.

Tahlilah — Our Master put worth in us. He made us live again. Before we knew Him nothing made sense (birds, mountains) — nothing had any meaning without our Master dying for us.

He gave our lives meaning. He gave us a purpose.

(Stem read from Prov 28:26 — “He who trusts in his own strength is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered”)

So how many fools do we have whose God is their own strength? You’ve got to walk wisely and not be fools — trusting in your own strength. “He who walks wisely will be delivered.”