

Unintentional

"Oops." "Sorry about that." "I didn't realize at the time." "That's not what I thought would happen." "I was young." "I didn't mean to." "It just came out wrong." I've been surprised recently how often the word "unintentionally" is repeated in Leviticus when talking about the sin offering.

Leviticus 4:2-35 "When anyone sins **unintentionally** and does what is forbidden in any of the Lord's commands—if the anointed priest sins...if the whole Israelite community sins **unintentionally**...when a leader sins **unintentionally**...if a member of the community sins **unintentionally**—when he is made aware of the sin he committed, he must bring as his offering a (bull/male goat)."



How easy to slip into a faulty view that somehow the "big sins" were covered by the sacrifices, and that the unaware, "accidental," unintentional sins should be overlooked because they weren't committed with the same motives. However, God doesn't lower His holiness standard. Instead, His standard shows the impossibility of the "try harder" system. Someone is going along their way; maintaining life as normal; being "pretty good." Then a friend comes and tells them that something they did was against God's standard. I can imagine them explaining their motives and the reason why the circumstances made this particular situation an exception to "the RULE." Finally, they agree that what they did was in violation to God's Law, regardless of their motive. At that point, what were they to do?

The sacrifice was the only way to pay for the Unintentional Sins. There was no posturing, no explaining, no discount points for unintentionality, no beating the system—only the humble response of admitting "I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight." And then the wonderful knowing that all has been made right, all has been paid for by the blood of a perfect Sacrifice.

"The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!"

Hebrews 9:13-14