

Chapter Ten (10)

Fire From Heaven

In the forgoing messages we have given the general pattern of the tabernacle in de detail, and have spent some time by way of introduction on the outer court, and the door of approach into the tabernacle grounds.

Until we enter the door, it is impossible to behold the beauties of the interior.

Until sinners comes by way of the door of Faith in God's Word, and the shed blood of the Lord Jesus, he/she can never behold the glories of Christ, and of His wonderful Word.

The natural man is blind to the things of God. Jesus Himself said:

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see ... " (Jn.3:3).

The man on the outside can see Jesus as a perfect man, a good man, but he/she will never see Him as the Savior and Lord until he/she enters the door of Faith at the eastern end of the tabernacle.

Just as soon as he or she enter - He/she comes face to face with the altar of burnt offering, - the figure of the Cross of the Lord Jesus the Christ, and realizes that only by the death of another, an innocent substitute, can he/she be saved.

The sinner will never see the gold in the tabernacle until he/she has seen the blood at the door of the tabernacle.

The gold represents the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the natural man.

This, the natural man, though mere religion and good works and morality, cannot see until he or she comes by way of the altar and the laver, the Cross and the Word of God.

Natural Man Blinded

Paul tells us in (1 Corinthians 2:14,

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:

for they are foolishness unto him/her: neither can he/she know them,
because they are spiritually discerned.”

And again in (11Corinthians 4:3-4), Paul gives this added light, and says:

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

In whom the god of this world [Satan] hath; blinded the minds of them
which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is
the image of God, should shine unto them.”

This explains why the Bible remains to a great degree a closed book to the most educated but
unconverted man, while it is an open book to the most ignorant believer.

Read the rest middle (pg.77 - 78).

The Interior Beauty

When the believer enters by faith through the door, he/she meets up immediately with the altar.

This altar of burnt offering stood just inside the door of the tabernacle; it was the shape of a square
seven and one-half feet by seven and one-half feet and four and
one-half feet high.

Read the rest (pg.78) description of the altar.

It was a picture of the incorruptibility of the body of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Like the altar. - Christ was able to withstand intense heat of the continue sacrifice which were made
upon the altar, it was not consumed because oxygen was excluded. The wood was not destroyed
because it was envelope of brass.

The intense of the wrath of God; He was not destroyed, but was able to say concerning His life: ‘No man
taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.”

I have power to lay it down =, and I have power take it up again (Jn.10:18).

(1 Peter 2:24) "He bare our sins in His own body on the tree."

(Isaiah " The Lord had laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Continual Offering

The fire upon this Alta was kindled from heaven.

It fell from God and kindled the sacrifice on the occasion of the dedication of the tabernacle when it was completed.

"There came a fire out from before the Lord, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces." (Lev.9:24).

It must be all by the grace of God, wholly apart from all human help and merit, religion and works.

To do otherwise meant certain death. Example - two sons of Aaron -

Nadab and Abihu, in (Lev. 10) "Strange Fire"

Others - Abel sacrifice

In the case of Elijah.

Always Burning

This fire on the altar of burnt offering was kindled once and for all, and was never allowed to go out, and was never repeated.

This of course, speaks of the security of the believer, and the fact that the sacrifice always stands to plead for the saint who has come by way of the Cross.

The sacrifice of Christ is once and for all, and is never to be repeated.

The whole service of the altar was designed by God Himself in behalf of the sinner.

Never Sat Down

In the tabernacle the work of the priest, was never done.

Day after day, month after month, he needed to offer the sacrifices for the sins of the people and feed the fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

There was not a chair in the entire building.

But when the Lord Jesus Christ our great High Priest came, He finished the work, and he made an offering once and for all.

Read Heb.10:1-4, &11-14)

There are two lesson to learn here:

The first is there is only one way of approach into the presence of God:

*That is to come as a poor, lost, helpless, hell-deserving sinner.

*one was to bring absolutely nothing but the animal of sacrifice in His hands.

Chapter Eleven

God's Wash Basin

"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

'Thou shalt also make a laver of brass . . . To wash withal:

and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation

and the altar, and thou shalt water therein.

For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat:

When they go into tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash

water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to

minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the Lord:

So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not:

and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed

throughout their generations (Exod.30:17-21).

And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of the brass, of the

looking glasses of the women assembling, which assembled at the

door of the tabernacle of the congregation (Exod.38:8).

As the priest or offerer entered through the door of the tabernacle to worship Almighty God and to serve, he or she first came to the altar of burnt offering, picture of the death of a substitute, and the place of the blood.

It pointed to the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ of Calvary, the starting point of our entire Salvation.

It is the place of our justification by faith, on the basis of the shed blood, death and resurrection of our Savior. This settles our salvation.

We are now in the tabernacle, Even though no further progress has been made, everyone who has stopped at the altar of burnt offering, and has come by faith in the Cross of Christ is in and he or she is saved. Since Christ is the tabernacle, we are now in Christ, the moment we step through the door, and accept the sacrifice upon the altar.

The pries in the tabernacle is a type of the believer in Christ . The new believer is now to go to the next step. And so after the altar - he or she comes now to the laver of cleansing.

Which was a wash basin mounted on an attached pedestal or base, and was made of brass kept filled with clean water.

It's fiction was the washing of hands and the feet of the priests, continually, as the ministered in the tabernacle service and worship.

The altar speaks of justification but the laver speaks of the sanctifying power of the Word of the Living God,

The Material

The laver was made of solid brass - and was filled with pure water.

Brass in the Scriptures speaks of the judgement of God.

Water is symbolic of the Word of God.

At the laver - the "sins of the saints" are taken care of.

At the altar - the "penalty " of sin was settled forever - but at the laver the "defilement" of sins committed by the believer after regeneration are provided for completely,

The laver speaks of separation from the world through confession of sin, and cleansing by the Word of God.

It speaks of self-judgement, and a yielding to God for His service alone.

It was made from the looking -glasses of the women.

Mirrors were made in those days of highly polished brass,

They were for glorification of the flesh, and the glorification of the flesh, and gratification of the old nature.

They are symbol of human vanity and human pride.

The women of Israel were to surrender these looking glasses, and yield them, give them up, to be made into a laver of cleansing.

The laver then speaks of separation from the flesh and the world, and from the old nature with its pride and lusts, habits and sins.

After a person is saved he or she must next be separated before he or she can go on to be of the service of in the tabernacle, at the table, the candlestick, and the intercessory incense altar.

Read the rest on (pg. 84).

The women gave up, their looking glasses to be cast into the brazen laver in self-judgement of their sins and worldliness. The laver contained water. The water is the Word of God by which we are cleaned and sanctified.

(Jn.15:3) “ Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.”

(Jn.17:17) He prays: “Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy Word is truth.”

(Eph. 5:26) “That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the Word.”

The Word is cleansing Power.

No Dimension

The laver was the only piece of furniture in the tabernacle, the dimensions of which were not given.

There was no command as to the size or dimension.

The reason - it was limitless in its application.

There was no limit to its size, or to the amount of water which it might hold.

Since the laver was for the cleaning of the priest every time he became defiled, the repeated use of the laver became necessary.

God had commanded that every time the priest approached the altar or tabernacle, he must stop and wash at the brazen laver,

No Floor In Tabernacle

The reason for all this was the absence of a floor in the tabernacle and there were no chairs, the priest could never sit down. His feet were therefore, always on the floor - (ground) the earth upon which he walked.

As a result, he became defiled every step he took, even in the service of the Lord.

For this he needed cleansing, because the service of the Lord was an exacting service and "they that bear the vessels of the Lord must be clean."

Now this cleansing was accomplished by washing with water in the laver.

This action speaks to us of the fact that while we are saved and justified, and so are in Christ, we, never the less, are still in this world defilement and of sin.

There is no denying the fact that we are in contact with defilement, and that we often give way to the weakness of the flesh, and we must, therefore, remember that God tells us that our only hope is, not in denying our sinfulness, but confessing it.

We are in constant contact with defilement, and that we often give way to the weakness of the flesh, and we must, therefore, remember that God tells us our only hope is not denying our sinfulness, but confessing it.

(1Jn.1:8) “ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive our selves, and the truth is not in us.”

Our only recourse is the cleansing which He provides, and He has promised:

“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1Jn.1:9)

How often may we come for cleansing? The Laver had no dimensions, and the quantity of water is not specified.

The provision, therefore, is as boundless and limitless as the grace of God.

We may come as often as we are defilement.

God wants His children clean, and has provided a way by confession and by repentance, through the Word of God, as we have said “not seven times, but seventy times seven.”

Hands And Feet

This cleansing was the hands and for the feet.

The hands speaks of service; the feet of walk and of conduct.

God asks of those who have been washed at the Cross from guilt and the penalty of sin that that shall be clean in their walk and their service to Him.

“They that bear the vessels of the Lord must be clean.”

In conclusion the experience of Peter - (Jn.13) _ at the washing of the disciples’ feet.

“ He that is washed needed not save to wash his feet, but clean everywhere
(Jn.13:10).

At regeneration, the Lord reminds Peter, we are washed positionally clean, never, never, never, to be repeated.

He said in Titus,

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of the regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

But this washed and cleaned believer still needs the washing of his feet from defilement of sin day by day, for there is no floor in the tabernacle.

The priest was given a complete bath upon his induction into the priesthood, on the basis of the blood. This admitted him into the tabernacle, and he is now typically forever in Christ, but his service he still needs the constant cleansing of the Laver.

The Lord Christ impressed upon Peter: ‘He that is washed needed - not save to wash - (except to) wash his feet. (Jn.13:10).

The washing of regeneration is once and for all, but oh, believer, remember that daily we need to come to the Throne of Grace, that we might obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

How much do you avail yourself of the cleansing of the laver ?

“He that covers his or her sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” (Prov.28:13).