

The Golden Candlestick

“And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of brazen work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls his knops and his flowers, shall be one of the same.

“And six branches shall come out the sides of it, three branches of the candlestick out of one side, and three branches of the candle stick out of the other side:

“And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it. (Exod. 25:31; 32, 37)

The candlestick was the symbol of a person.

The personal pronoun is applied to this lamp or candlestick.

The person it represents is the Lord Jesus Christ. who Him self said: “ I AM the light of the world.” (Jn.9:5)

This golden candlestick stood on the south side of the holy place, opposite the table of the shewbread with the altar on incense between.

The oil in the light, representing the Holy Spirit, was the only source of light by which the priest was to serve in the tabernacle. The light of the candlestick points both to the Lord Jesus Christ, and also to the written Word of God the two being inseparable.

“The word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psa.119:105)

The believer is to walk only, therefore, by the light of the Word of God.

The Light of Reason

The light of nature on the outside is the light of human reason, philosophy and speculation.

It is a light that shuts out God in the tabernacle, and binds the worshiper to the things which are spiritual. the light of nature is the light of human reason.

Man following reason instead of faith rejects the Word of God entirely, invents all sorts of human philosophies and theories of man's natural wisdom.

The light of human reason blinds the man on the outside of the vision of the altar, and the need of the precious blood of Christ.

Instead of faith he substitutes reason and philosophy

Instead of the blood as the only remedy for sin - he substitutes religion, morality, ethics, ordinances, education, psychology, and psychiatry.

Paul says:

“The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are the foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1Cor. 2:14).

But the believer inside the tabernacle, which is Christ, is to walk in the light, even as He is in the light. The light of the Word of God is the only true light, the only infallible light, the only safe guide and rule of life and conduct and practice for the believer.

The Oil

We notice next that the candlestick was fed by the oil of the sanctuary, specially ordered and prepared of God.

“And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.” (Exod.27:20).

Oil was also used for anointing the priests. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, and is the anointed One. The word “Messiah,” translated “Christ,” means literally “The Anointed One.” Isaiah says of Him,

“The spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me.” (Isaiah 61:1).

Peter tells us that;

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power.”

The lamp, therefore, represents the Lord Jesus Christ; the oil the Holy Spirit. When Jesus began His ministry, the Holy Spirit came upon Him, and he went forth to defeat The Devil and Satan in the wilderness, filled with the same Holy Spirit.

The Body Of Christ

But the golden candlestick speaks not only of Christ as the Head, but also of the Church, which is His body. The candlestick was seven - branched — a central upright shaft with three branches coming out of either side. The central upright shaft represents Christ as Head of the Body, and the six branches which came out its side are the members of the Body of Christ, who came out of His wounded side, and by the blood which gushed forth are made one with Him.

We may also say that Christ represents the vine, and the six branches the Church. Jesus said in (John 15:5). “I’m the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in Him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

The one central shaft, then, represents the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the Head of the Church. One is the number of deity and sovereignty.

He said to Israel:
Hear, O Israel: the Lord your God is one Lord . (Deut. 6:4).

The Bible opens with the statement of sovereignty of God. “ In the Beginning God”!
This God was Christ, the verse says: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
(Gen. 1:1).

And John tells us that it was Christ Himself who was this Creator:
“All things were made by Him; without Him was not any thing made that was made.”
(John 1:3).

There were six branches, however, attached to this central shaft. Six is the number of man. The six branches are the men and women, boys and girls, united to Christ by Faith, made one in Him.

Seven branches, but one candlestick. Seven is the number of perfection, and all believers are by their union to Christ made perfect in Him, nourished by the oil of the Holy Spirit, and kept Him forever.

The candlestick, then is the picture of the Church, Christ as Head, and we as members, one in Christ and one with Christ.

As the candlestick received all of its light from the oil, and not from the outside light of nature, so too the Church, the Body of Christ, is to shed forth the light of revelation, and not the light of nature.

The Church, in dwelt by the Holy Spirit, is to shine with the light of the Holy Spirit of God. In (Matt.5:14) “Ye are the Light of the world.”

Paul said: “Ye shine as lights in the world.” (Phip. 2:15).

It is, then, the function of the Church to hold aloft Christ as the light of the world, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Read pg.101) About. the Function of the Church. I question ! His comments.
I would say or Phrase it;

The first function of the Church is - to preach the new birth, get people saved, born again, and to to train and educate and cultivate them in the worship of God and in the winning of souls.

I believe in the Social Gospel - If the Black Church would not have educated our people - who knows where we would be!

Individual Application

The only spiritual light that men have today must come, therefore, from those who are joined and united as branches of the true candlestick to the Lord Jesus Christ.

When He was in the world - He said; "As long as I Am in the world, I AM the light of the world." (Jn. 9:5)

The Hymn writer wrote;
(The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin; the light of the world is Jesus)

He is not here anymore - He left and went to heaven some 2021 year ago -
But He made provision for this and said to His disciples before He Left:

"Ye are the light of the world" - (Matt.5:14)

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt.5:16).

All the world can see is us - and through us.

They must see Him in us or be forever shut out from His vision. We are the Light of the world today.

Chapter 14

T H E P L A C E O F P R A Y E R

And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon of shittim wood shalt thou make it.

And thou shalt put it before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.

And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the Lord through-out generations.

Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon." (Exod.30: 1, 6-9).

THESE are God's divine, heaven-sent orders for the placing of the fifth article of furniture in the tabernacle of congregation, (type of the Lord Jesus Christ).

It was an altar made of wood, overlaid with pure gold. - the wood pointing to His humanity, and the gold speaking of His unchangeable deity. It was the tallest piece of furniture in the holy place, and speaks of the highest act of worship possible, that prayer and priestly

intercession. {3 feet high and one and one-half feet square}

I t s P o s i t i o n

It occupied the central position in the holy place, between the table of the shewbread and the golden candlestick.

It stood in front of the veil and the ark of the covenant in the holy of holies, with its covering of the bloody mercy seat. Upon it was to be offered a continual offering of incense upon coals taken from the brazen altar at the door of the tabernacle.

It is the most complete type of our Savior now in heaven as interceding High Priest.

The writer of Hebrews informs us:

“ For Christ in not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” (Heb. 9:24).

The tabernacle was in every detail a shadow and type of the coming Redeemer.

He says that the holy place was a “figure of the true”; the priest was a figure of the Lord Jesus Christ; His ministry at the altar of incense of His prayers in our behalf, so that the smoke of His incense rises constantly before the ark and the mercy seat, representing the throne of God.

At the brazen altar Christ died for us, shed His blood, reconciled us to God, and made us forever secure in Him.

But at the golden altar He Lives in heaven to intercede for those for whom He has already died, and who are already saved.

The brazen altar speaks of the living, resurrected, ascended Lord Jesus Christ.

The two altars, therefore, speaks of the death and resurrection, and constitute the full message of the Gospel, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that he arose again the third day according to the scriptures (1 Cor. 15: 3-4).

T h e C o n s t a n t N e e d

The Lord Jesus, therefore, today is heaven offering the incense of His own intercessory work on the basis of the the blood of the Cross of Calvary.

Incense is a common Biblical figure for prayer and for intercession on the part of God's people. David says in (Psalm 141:2),

“Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense.”

The need for the priestly intercession was constant, for the priests were dailey deviled by contact with the earth upon which they walked. - needed constantly to be washed in the brazen

laver.

They needed confession and intercession at the golden altar.

The golden altar is a flat denunciation of any claim to perfection in walk which the priest might make.

The incense, rising before the veil was a constant reminder to the priest that he still had the old nature, that he still came short, that he still needed the intercession and the work at the altar of incense. The claim of sinless perfection, the assertion that the old nature is completely eradicated, root and branch, is a blunt denial of the priestly office and the intercessor work of the Lord Jesus Christ today at the right hand of God.

Only The Blood

The basis of the efficacy of the golden altar lay in the blood, taken from the altar at the door of the tabernacle Concerning the golden altar we read:

“And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement. “ (Exod. 30:10)

The intercession and the incense received their value completely and exclusively from the blood shed at the brazen altar at the entrance of the tabernacle proper. Everything rests upon the blood of the Cross, the death and resurrection, and the shedding of the blood of Christ. Had Christ not died for us, He could not today intercede for for us. The priest could not enter the holy place without blood, without first stopping at the altar of burnt offering, and making the proper sacrifice.

For Us Also

The same is true of our prayers and our intercession as well. The tabernacle not only speaks of Christ, as a Person, but also of those who are in Him, and have entered in by the door.

And we too have a ministry of intercessory prayer. Prayer is the sweetest thing we can offer to God, more acceptable even than testimony or active service. God is more pleased with our worship than with or service, for there can be no acceptable service until we have stopped to worship first of all at the golden altar.

Martha, in the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, served, but Mary was commended for sitting first at Jesus' feet before she served.

Martha was not reproved because she served, but because she had served without first stopping to worship. {Enter to Worship -Depart to Serve}

The greatest privilege, therefore, which God has given to us, and the one most neglected, is the privilege of prayer and intercession, in preparation for service for Him.

Our prayers, are on the basis of the shed blood of Calvary. They are heard and accepted only

because of the blood,

What a privilege, that we can be priests of God to pray and intercede for others.
Think of Abraham - Moses.

The work of intercession, is the greatest privilege of the believer.

The testimony of Author - of unseen prayers and unnoticed Prayers - (Page 108)
The POWER OF PRAYERS

Only For Believers

As the priest in the tabernacle offered incense for Israel, so in heaven we have a great high priest who is there to intercede for us. By the offering of the sacrifice on the brazen altar we are saved, but by incense on the golden altar we are kept.

The incense is a continual offering, by which He is able to save all those to the uttermost who come by faith to Him, seeing that He ever liveth to make intercession for us.

Here is our security - "He ever liveth to make intercession for us" this intercession in heaven is only for believers.

The priest offered incense only for those who had first of all brought their sacrifice to the brazen altar at the door of the tabernacle, and approached on the basis of shed blood. So too Christ in heaven - prays and intercedes only for those who have already been born again. He does not pray for sinners. The priest at the golden altar is powerless to do a single thing for the sinner, until the sinner comes first of all to the Savior at the Cross, represented by the altar of the burnt offering.

The Bible leaves no doubt upon this matter, In Christ prophetic high priestly prayer in (John 17:9) 'I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given Me; for they are Thine.'

Jesus Christ at the right hand of God, therefore, can do absolutely nothing for the sinner, until he or she come by way of the blood and the altar and the Cross.

He exhausted Himself, in doing all that was necessary, until He was able to say, "It Is Finished." this refers to the work of redemption.

The work of redemption was truly finished on the Cross of Calvary.

But it did not apply to His work of intercession, for that work is still going on, at the right hand of God.

Until the sinner receives Christ as his Savior by faith, he or she cannot be saved and he or she cannot have Christ as his or her interceding High Priest.

God never hears the prayers of sinners, Only the prayers of those who are saved are heard by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer without faith is absolutely worthless, and the sinner who comes to God praying without faith accomplishes nothing.

He, the thief on the Cross prayed - "If thou be the Christ save thyself and us."

He did pray for Christ to save him, but not by the way of His death, but by coming down from the Cross. He wanted Christ to avoid the death of the Cross, "to save Himself,". And then he added "and us."

Oh, sinner, do you not realize that Christ cannot stand between you and God - until you come first as a poor, lost, helpless, undone sinner to the Cross of Calvary, and lay your hand on the head of the sacrifice, In faith as your substitute, and receive Him in your place.

Then you can enter in and feed upon the Word, and walk in the light of the golden candlestick, and be kept by the presence of our interceding Savior on the right hand of God.

The whole point of this of the position of the altar of incense is that prayer is absolutely unacceptable until we have come by way of the bloody altar of the burnt offering , which represents the Cross of Christ.