

THE LAVER JESUS CHRIST OUR SANCTIFICATION

Exodus 30:17-21

John 13:1-11; 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1



2 July 2023

Catechism and Meditation

The Eternal Purpose of God

The Tabernacle So Far

- CHRIST IS THE TABERNACLE! (John 1:14). (See Handout: How to Get to God).
- Designed by God for a way that a Holy, Holy, Holy God can have fellowship with His people.
- It was at the Tabernacle that God would meet with His people. Christ is the only meeting place to have fellowship with God.
- ONLY THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.
- The Tabernacle was at the center of the camp.
- The design was very detailed and Moses was warned to construct it exactly as he had been shown (Exodus 25:9; 40).
- Three distinct places: Outer Court; Holy Place, and Holy of Holies.
- The linens, sockets, hooks, pillars, ropes, and pegs of the outer court - all and everything pointing to Christ.
- There was only ONE GATE. Christ is the GATE/DOOR. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH CHRIST.
- As soon as a redeemed person comes into the Tabernacle, he/she is confronted with the Brazen Altar of sacrifice.
- There can be no fellowship with God until our sins are dealt with. Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2).

Second Piece of Furniture

- After being confronted with the Brazen Altar of sacrifice, the second piece of furniture in the Tabernacle is the Brazen Laver.
- The Laver was used by the priests for washing their hands and feet which is a picture of cleansing for the Christian (Eph 5:26; 1 John 3:3; 2 Cor 7:1).

- Whilst the Brazen Altar is a picture of our justification, the Brazen Laver is a picture of our sanctification. It is at the Laver that cleansing/sanctification takes place (Ephesians 5:26).
- A believer needs both the Altar and the Laver. You cannot have the Altar without the Laver and you cannot have the Laver without the Altar.
- The penalty for sin is dealt with at the Altar, the cleansing from sin at the Laver. All of this is because of the work of Jesus Christ (John 1:29; Matthew 1:21; 1 Corinthians 1:30).

The Laver- Its Construction and Purpose (Exodus 30:17-21)

- Material - to be made of bronze/brass
 - The laver and its base are to be made of bronze/brass
 - Brass speaks of judgment (Remember Revelation 1:15; Deut. 28:23; Numbers 21:9) (The Brazen Serpent - a picture of God raising up His Son in judgment for the sins of His people - Romans 8:32)
 - Brass is used in the Bible as a symbol of endurance. (Deut 33:25; Jeremiah 1:18)
 - Everything in the outer court is made of brass/bronze, whilst everything in the Holy place is made of gold.
- Position - between the Tabernacle of meeting and the Altar.
- Purpose - to be filled with water for washing of the hands and feet before the priests minister at the Altar or in the Holy Place.
- Consequence of not washing at the Laver - DEATH (repeated twice for emphasis) (Exodus 30:20-21; Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4; Genesis 2:16-17; Luke 13:1-5). This is a serious thing!
- It shall be a statute forever for all priests in the OT and NT to cleanse themselves in order to fellowship with God (Exodus 30:21; 1 Peter 2:9).

The Laver - A Picture of the Word of God

- As the Laver was the instrument for the cleansing of the OT priests, the Word of God is one of the means of sanctification for the NT priests/believers/saints (Ephesians 5:26). All disciples are priests (1 Peter 2:9; Rev. 1:6).
- The Laver was made from the brass looking glasses/mirrors which had been offered by the women (Exodus 38:8). It also provided the water for the priests to cleanse themselves.
- In the same way, the Word of God had a dual function: as a mirror it shows us a true reflection of ourselves (our sins) and it provides the means to get right with God (2 Corinthians 13:5, 2 Corinthians 3:18).
- The Word of God has a transforming effect (Romans 12:1-2).
- The Word of God is likened to a mirror (James 1:22-25).
- The Word of God is a double-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12).

- God's Word sanctifies us and makes us clean (John 17:17; John 15:3).
- How can a young man or woman cleanse their way? (See Psalm 119:9 for the answer).
- God's Word is to be hidden in our hearts so that we don't sin against Him (Psalm 119:11).
- God's Word is profitable for doctrine (tells us what is right), reproof (tells us what is not right), correction (shows us how to get right), instruction in righteousness (teaches us how to stay right) (2 Timothy 3:16).
- God's Word is the means that the Holy Spirit employs to convict the elect of their sins and to transform them (John 16:8; 2 Corinthians 3:18).
- Do you live your life on every word of God? (Luke 4:4; Matthew 4:4; John 8:31).

Washing in the Laver - A Picture of Sanctification

- The Laver used by the priests for washing is a picture of cleansing for the Christian - The Laver is a picture of sanctification (Ephesians 5:26; 1 John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1).
- To be sanctified is to be set apart or made holy for God's use.
- As washing made the OT priests clean and in the right condition to approach God, continuous sanctification of the NT believer prepares him or her to approach the Holy, Holy, Holy God.
- Without holiness no one will see God (Hebrews 12:14).
- Without continuous sanctification there has been no justification. Salvation is a full package comprising; REGENERATION+ JUSTIFICATION + SANCTIFICATION + GLORIFICATION (Romans 8:28-30).
- Christians are still sinners who need to continually confess, repent and forsake their sins in order to enjoy fellowship with God (1 John 1:8-10; Galatians 5:17; Romans 7:21-24).
- Jesus commanded us to 'repent' in the present tense - we must repent continually (Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4:17). It is not a onetime event.
- Beware of the deceitfulness of sin - No one is immune to sin, not even priests (Hebrews 3:13; Jeremiah 17:9).
- The Brazen Laver had two washing basins, one for the hands and one for the feet. Both our hands and feet need to be sanctified continuously.
 - Hands speak to us of our service to God - we cannot do anything pleasing for God while we continue to sin (Psalm 24:3-4; Isaiah 33:14-15).
 - Feet speaks of our walk with God. (John 13:6-10; Micah 6:8; Ephesians 5:15).

No Floor in the Tabernacle - A Picture of the Contamination of the world

- As the priests came into the Tabernacle their feet would have been dusty because they stood to minister on bare ground. This is a picture of NT priests who serve God in this evil world (1 John 2:15-17; Romans 12:1-2).
- As NT priests we are in the world but not of this world (John 17:16-26; 1 John 2:15-17).
- The world is anti-God (John 15:18-19).
- The whole world lies under the influence of Satan (1 John 5:19).
- As NT priests move through this evil world, we become contaminated by what we see, hear, touch etc. and therefore we need to clean ourselves of the filth of the world daily (2 Corinthians 7:1).

No Dimensions of the Laver

- All the furniture in the Tabernacle had specific measurements but not the Laver.
- There was no limit to its size or to the amount of water it could hold or how many times in a day to come for cleansing. The priests were to wash anytime they became unclean.
- For the NT priest there is no limit to how many times we confess and repent of our sins - come as many times as you become filthy (Matthew 18:21-22).

The Laver: Jesus Christ Is Our Sanctification! (1 Corinthians 1:30)

- By His life, death and resurrection Jesus Christ procured our justification, sanctification and glorification!
- The work of Christ is the basis for the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work in us.
- Jesus Christ came to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).
- True disciples of Christ hate sin and repent of it (Acts 26:19-20; 1 John 3:9).
- We are to walk as Christ walked (1 John 2:3-6).
- God forgives our sins only because of the work of Christ on our behalf.
- Jesus Christ is our Advocate before the Father (1 John 2:1-2)
- Jesus Christ continuously makes intercession for all those that He died for (Hebrews 7:23-25)

Are you cleansing yourself?