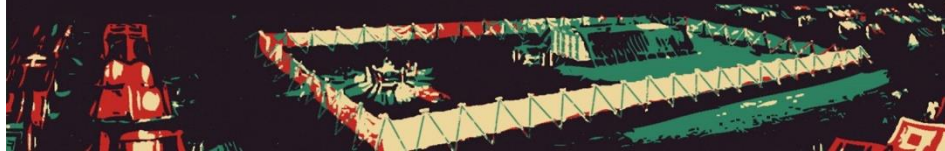


“The Laver, Christ Our Sanctification”

Exodus 30:17-21

The Tabernacle of Testimony



I. THE MATERIALS OF THE LAVER

A. BRASS (EXODUS 30:18, 38:8)

1. The Word of God that Judges (30:18)
2. The Word of God that Reveals (38:8)

The source of this brass is mirrors, reflective surfaces, of high polished bronze.

James 1:22-24, “²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.”

B. WATER: THE WORD OF GOD THAT CLEANSSES (EXODUS 30:18)

Ephesians 5:25-26, “²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”

John 15:3, “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

II. THE PLACEMENT OF THE LAVER (EXODUS 30:18)

First of all, you come to the altar, and immediately past the altar is the laver. Then, past the laver is the holy place—the place of service. So, in order to get to the place of service you had to wash at the laver.

III. THE METHOD OF THE LAVER (EXODUS 30:19-21; JOHN 13:1-14)

Isaiah 52:11, “Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.”

The laver was the most used piece of furniture in all of the tabernacle, for it speaks of our coming to the Lord daily, in His Word, and getting our lives cleansed and fit for service. The brass of God’s Word judges our sins, the reflection of it reveals our sins, and the water of it cleanses our sins.

If you're not spending time washing every day at the laver, like the Old Testament priests, your ministry will be a ministry of death, rather than a ministry of life.

When a priest was put into the priesthood, they brought him to the door of the tabernacle, and they gave him a ceremonial bath (Exodus 29:4). This bath had nothing to do with the laver. It symbolized a man getting saved and getting all of his sins forgiven, being washed from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet. Once a priest had had this kind of a bath, he never had another ceremonial bath again.

But he still had to go by the laver every day and wash his hands and wash his feet before he could serve. Likewise, when a man is saved, he’s bathed all over from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet.

Titus 3:5, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

There was no floor in the tabernacle. The Old Testament priests who had this bath all over, when they would go into the tabernacle to minister, were walking on the ground. The tabernacle had seven pieces of furniture, but it didn't have a chair in it. There was no way the priest, when he was ministering, could take his feet off the ground. This symbolizes the position that every believer is in today.

II Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore if any man be in Christ (our tabernacle), he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

We live in a dirty world, even though we're “in Christ”. We must constantly come to our Lord and bathe, at the laver, our hands and our feet, because we're defiled by the things we touch. John 13 gives an amazing illustration of this:

(John 13:1-2 – Note “in the world”) Jesus was washing His disciples' feet They're His own; that is, they're in the tabernacle. But, they're also in the world (no floor in the tabernacle). It was the Passover supper. And, the Passover spoke of Christ, our sacrifice; the brazen altar; the cross.

(John 13:3-10 – Note “bason” = laver) In Bible times, out in front of any well-to-do home would be a laver. And, before they would go into that home and have fellowship, they had to wash their feet; it was a requirement for fellowship.

Our Lord is teaching here, just as He taught in Exodus, that salvation is once for all. But after we get saved, we must come to the laver—the washing of God's Word—so that they can be cleansed, for fellowship with God.

Psalm 119:9, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

(John 13:14) What He is saying is, "If I have forgiven you your daily sins against Me, you ought to forgive one another their daily sins against you"

Ephesians 4:32, “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”