

CRUCIAL ASPECTS OF GOD'S ECONOMY PORTRAYED IN EXODUS (4)—BUILDING

Message Three

Experiencing and Enjoying Christ in the Outer Court

Scripture Reading: Exo. 40:29-30; 27:1-8; Heb. 13:10; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 John 1:7, 9;
John 5:19, 30; Heb. 4:15; Eph. 2:14; Rom. 8:3; 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:5;
Exo. 38:8; Eph. 5:26-27

I. God desires that His redeemed people would become God's corporate dwelling place through their subjective experience of Christ as typified by the tabernacle and its contents—Exo. 25:8–9; Eph. 2:21–22; 3:17a; 1 Pet. 2:2, 4–5.

II. Our experience of Christ for God's building begins with the altar and the laver in the outer court of the tabernacle—Exo. 40:29–30; cf. 27:1–8; 30:18–21:

- A. The altar of burnt offering typifies the cross of Christ—Heb. 13:10:
1. The altar was made of acacia wood, signifying the man Jesus, who was judged by God on the cross as our Substitute—Exo. 27:1; 1 Tim. 2:5.
 2. The altar was overlaid with bronze, signifying God's righteous judgment on Christ as our Substitute—Num. 16:37–39; Isa. 53:5; 2 Cor. 5:21; cf. 1 Pet. 3:18.
 3. At the altar our problems before God are solved through the crucified Christ as the sacrifices and we obtain righteousness and peace with God and with one another—1 John 1:7–9:
 - a. The burnt offering typifies Christ in His living a life that is perfect and absolutely for God and for God's satisfaction and in His being the life that enables God's people to have such a living—John 5:19, 30; 6:57; cf. 2 Cor. 5:15; Gal. 2:19–20; Lev. 1.
 - b. The meal offering typifies Christ in His pure, fine, and perfect humanity for our mutual enjoyment with God—2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; cf. Lev. 2.
 - c. The peace offering typifies Christ as our peace with God that we may enjoy Him with God and with man in fellowship and joy—Deut. 27:7; Eph. 2:14; cf. Lev. 3; Num. 10:10.
 - d. The sin offering typifies Christ sacrificed on the cross to deal with the sin which indwells our fallen nature—Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; cf. Lev. 4.
 - e. The trespass offering typifies Christ sacrificed on the cross to deal with the sins and trespasses we have committed—Isa. 53:5a; 1 Cor. 15:3; 1 Pet. 2:24; Heb. 9:28; cf. Lev. 5.
 4. The experience of Christ as the reality of the offerings for our judicial redemption qualifies us to enter the tabernacle, a type of Christ as the incarnated and enterable Triune God, and to enjoy all the riches contained in God—John 1:14; 14:6.
- B. We need to experience the exposing, judging, and washing Spirit as the reality of the bronze laver:
1. After passing through God's full judgment at the altar (the cross), the crucified Christ entered into resurrection and became the life-giving Spirit who washes us in His organic salvation—1 Cor. 15:45; 6:11; Titus 3:5.
 2. The washing at the laver signifies not the washing away of sin by the blood of Christ but the washing away of the defilement that comes from

contacting earthly things; in this washing, our fellowship with God and with one another is maintained—cf. John 13:1–15.

3. The laver was overlaid with bronze that came from mirrors, implying that the laver of bronze was a mirror that could reflect and expose our true condition—Exo. 38:8.
4. The washing of the Spirit as the water of life is in the word of Christ; the indwelling Christ as the life-giving Spirit is always speaking an instant, present, and living word to metabolically cleanse away the old and replace it with the new, causing an inward transformation—Eph. 5:26–27.

III. We must begin our experience of Christ each day in the outer court at the bronze altar and the bronze laver for our entrance into God's building:

- A. Whenever we desire to approach God and sense that we are condemned and defiled, we need the cleansing of the blood to deal with our condemnation and the washing of the Holy Spirit to rid us of our defilement.
- B. The judgment at the bronze altar delivers us from condemnation and purges us from sin; the shining of the bronze laver rids us of our uncleanness and purifies us from inward filthiness.
- C. By spending much time at the altar and the laver, we will be able to enter into the deeper experiences of Christ for God's building in the Holy Place and Holy of Holies.

Focus:

In this message we have an opportunity to help the young people see something further concerning God's judicial redemption, through the offering of Christ on the cross. The young people need a good impression of redemption, of cleansing, of the burnt offering, meal offering, peace offering, sin offering, and trespass offering. Plus, the experience of Christ at the laver to cleanse away all the earthly and worldly defilements so we can be qualified to enter into Christ and enjoy Him.