

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Morning

Date 11th December 2022

Preacher Philip Knowles Ps/Hymns Ps 119:9-16 Martyrdom, 320, 644.

Read Exodus 30:17-21 Text Exodus 30:17-21

Series – The Tabernacle series (5) Title The Brazen Laver

In the making and layout of the Tabernacle's Pattern, the Brazen laver was the seventh piece of furniture to be built over all,

but the second piece of furniture within the court, through the gate.

Since this pattern was Divinely given, as to its making and use, it is no coincidence that the Brazen Laver followed the Brazen Altar.

We considered the Brazen Altar, the place of Sacrifice, the place of Justification, pardon for sin, where the Israelite was taught by faith, the penalty and power of sin was put away by the shedding of blood. A substitute was accepted by God in their place.

Next came the Brazen Laver, which spoke of cleansing from dirt and defilement.

As the priest served the Lord in the court, his hands and feet became dirty from the dust of the ground, the blood and flesh from slaying the animals, so he needed cleansed.

Before the priest entered into the Tent to meet with God, he first came to the brazen altar and then the brazen laver.

The reason being the Brazen Altar deals with the forgiveness of sins, that is justification, whereas the Brazen laver deals with the cleansing of sins, teaching sanctification.

Both, the Brazen Altar and the Brazen Laver go together, they can never be separated.

Just as both justification and sanctification go together, yet they are distinct.

Justification is a once and for all present pardon from sin's punishment. A person is either justified by God or not.

Sanctification is a continual process until glorification.

Justification is the root of salvation; sanctification is the fruit of salvation.

When a sinner is justified, declared righteous by God, God, creates within them a desire for holiness, a life set apart for God.

The Brazen Laver does not deal with the need to be justified, rather it deals with the need to be cleansed for fellowship with God in order to serve God.

I FIRST THE REPRESENTATION AT THE BRAZEN LAVER

This will help us establish the spiritual significance of the laver.

The word **laver** comes from a word meaning **lavatory**, in other words **the bathroom**. It is a place to wash, to remove dirt and bacteria, and be refreshed.

Also, the word **laver** also means **a basin** or **something round**. As no shape is stated in the verses, then it is suggested this was a round shape for washing.

The Brazen Laver represented cleansing through the Scriptures.

In **verse 18** *“thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass..”*

Ch 38:8 *“and he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it was brass, of the lookingglasses of the woman, assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.”*

The word **lookingglasses** does not mean glasses to wear, rather it refers to polished brass metals. It was the brass metal brought out of Egypt.

Brass metal spoke of judgment. In **Ps 119**, At least 15 times the word of God is referred to as the judgment of the LORD.

Christ spoke to the rejecters of His day, in **John 12:48** *“He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth Him, the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”*

Furthermore, Brass was a strong and durable metal, symbolising the word of God.

1 Peter 1:23 *“...the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”* **Verse 25** *“The word of Lord endureth for ever.”* **Ps 12:7** *“thou shalt keep them, O Lord thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.”*

The Brazen laver was made from the women’s looking glasses.

Such was the shine from the polished Brass and the water within the laver that when the priest looked at it, his image was reflected and he saw himself as the laver reflected, and identified the action needing to take.

The laver symbolised the word of God.

The idea is given in **James 1:22-23** “**but be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. V23 “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.”**”

The word **glass** refers to **a mirror**. The one who looks into a mirror, they see their reflection by the mirror.

The mirror identifies where and what needs to be fixed, attended to. What action must be taken.

James is saying, if man hears the word of God, and sin in his life is exposed by that word, but if he does not confess the exposed sin, that person is only a hearer, not a doer of the word.

He hears what needs to be put right but neglects to do it. He is like a man looking at the mirror, sees what needs to be fixed but doesn't do it.

When the Christian has neglected the laver the word of God, and are not cleansed from sin, it shows, by actions, attitudes, the very atmosphere surrounding them, it all points to the word of God, not applied to the life. It shows time not spent at the word.

The Lord is teaching, His word, is as a mirror to our lives, and identifies the areas in our lives that need to be attended to.

Our lives are judged by word of God not the standards of men **Ps 119:9** “**Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.**”

Notice, in verse 18 “*and thou shalt put water therein.*”

When the priests approached the Brazen laver, they did not wash in the laver, but as **verse 19** states “*thereat,*” or at it, not to contaminate the water.

The water was poured over the hands and feet. In sense it was running water, not still but continually flowing, supplying and cleansing.

(That is the key, because the priests, when using water in sacrifices poured running water over the animal as **Lev 14:4-5**, “*the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water.*” The word for **running water** in Hebrew is **living water**.)

That’s a powerful thought for when the water was poured, or running over the Priest’s hands and feet the water made the difference.

In spiritual application, **Heb 4:12** “*the word of God is quick and power...*” The word **quick** means **to make alive, to quicken**. God’s word refreshes, restores, and revives.

The word of God is a living book, it is like running water, continually flowing and cleansing.

In **verse 21** “*it shall be a statute forever to them even to him and his seed throughout their generations.*” there was a continual supply, there was always cleansing, from generation to generation, from day to day, a removal of dirt.

Spiritual application, *there is never a time when scripture does not cleanse us from sin.*

This book is living water. Time spent in the word will refresh us. The Inspired Word of God, must not be contaminated by men’s works.

The Bible changes lives. God's word makes the difference in our lives, families, churches, nation.

The Brazen Laver represented cleansing through the Son

We must always remember, the laver is teaching that when a Christian sins, there is cleansing.

Above all Jesus Christ is our sanctification and sanctifier. He is the incarnate Word of God.

The word **sanctified** means **to set apart, but also to purify or cleanse**. There is a sense believers are set apart from the world by Christ unto God once and for all, as **Hebrews 10:14** states **for by one offering He has perfected for ever them that are sanctified**. We are positionally sanctified

However, **sanctification** means **purification, to make holy**. This is progressive on going, be conformed to Christ's image. A Christ like attitude, behaviour, speech.

The Tabernacle represented the person and work of Christ. The Israelite was taught every part testified of Christ.

Believer in our study of the tabernacle we must think of Christ.

The Spiritual blessings we enjoy is by Him. The word of God testifies in **1 Cor 1:30** "...**Christ ...is made unto us, wisdom, righteousness, and sanctification and redemption**." The more the word of God dwells within us, we became more and more Christ like in our lives.

There is cleansing through the Scripture and the Son, as the Holy Spirit applies to our hearts the work of Christ recorded in the word.

II SECOND, THE REALITY OF THE BRAZEN LAVER

Notice the words in **verse 18** regarding the laver's placement, ***"thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash with all, and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein."***

The Brazen laver was positioned between the Brazen Altar and the Tent where the Priest served the Lord.

As he ministered, he would be affected by the desert dust as he walked. Also, his hands were covered in filth from animals' blood and flesh.

Here is the reality, during the priest's service to God, he became filthy and needed to be washed.

While God's people are completely delivered from the penalty and power of sin, its curse and condemnation.

The laver taught the reality that they are not delivered from the presence and pollution of sin, its dirt and defilement.

That is a reality that all Christians need to face, because there are some who wrongly teach sinless perfection this side of eternity.

That means while you live on earth you can know a state of sinless perfection. But that teaching is unreal, and unscriptural.

Therefore, we need to see the reality, as Paul said, in **Gal 5:17** ***"for the spirit lusteth against the flesh, and these two are contrary one to another, so ye cannot do the things that ye would do."***

1 John 1:8 ***"if we say that we have not sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*** **V10** ***"if we say we***

have not sinned we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

If believers did not struggle with daily sin, there would no need for the Brazen Laver for cleansing.

The Brazen laver does not excuse sin, rather provides cleansing because of daily defilement, and likeness to Christ.

The Lord Jesus in heaven appears in the presence of God to pray for all who His blood was shed. He desires His church to be holy, even as He is holy.

Eph 5:25-26 “... Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.” He prayed in **John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”**

As long as the believer lives upon the earth, there will be the need for cleansing from sins.

As you are in the word of God it continually cleanses you.

believer just as the Brazen Laver was centrally located in the Tabernacle court, so the word of God must be central in our lives daily. Oh to say as **Ps 119:97 “O How love I thy law, it is my mediation all the day.”**

III THIRD, THE ROUTINE AT THE BRAZEN LAVER

Notice the words in **verse 18 “thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash with all...”**

V19 “for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat.”

In the tabernacle the sacrifice was presented to the Lord daily, in the morning and in the noon. Throughout the day their

hands and feet, were unclean, **so, Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat.**"

Hands speaking of work, and **Feet** speak of walking.

Their **work and walk** needed to be washed in order to serve right and walk right to please the Lord. **Is 52:11** "**Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord.**"

The Priest each time must go the laver to wash. The reason being after the Brazen laver the Priest would enter the Tent of the tabernacle and meet with God.

But he could not enter into the Tent and with fellowship with God in defilement and uncleanness.

There must be cleansing from contamination and defilement. The priests would continually wash throughout the day.

Every time they were in service and in the presence of the Lord, they must be washed.

Otherwise, it hindered fellowship, and also resulted in their death due to continual disobedience, and tampering with sin.

(**v20** "**when they go into the tabernacle of the congregation they shall wash with water, that they die not, or then they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD.**")

verse 21 "**so they shall wash their hands and their feet that they die not...**". The Lord removed them, as He did the Corinthians who defiled the Lord's table.

It was the daily routine of Aaron and his sons to come to the Brazen laver to wash all the dust and dirt before and after service.

Therefore, child of God it must be our daily routine to spend time in thinking about the Cross then come to the word, to be washed from the daily pollution and corruption of sin.

In the morning, throughout the day and at evening come for cleansing. Throughout the day, we hear, and see disturbing things that impact us, we need cleansed.

Before you read your Bible, pray for cleansing. As you worship the Lord in singing and under the sound of the word, pray for cleansing.

This could be the reason why many believers claim they get nothing from the church services, they have neglected the laver for cleansing from daily sin.

The Saviour made this point clear, in **John 13** The disciples had travelled from Bethany **12:1**, to Jerusalem **12:12**.

When the Master of the house or strangers travelled, the path was dusty, moreover their sandals, and feet would be exposed to the dust and dirt.

When the Master of the home returned or the visiting Jew came into the house, it was the servants task to wash the feet. It was the lowest task, the servant had to get down on the ground very humbling.

We learn the Lord takes that place of humiliation to wash His disciple feet. But Peter says **verse 8** "**thou shalt never wash my feet.**" The Lord answers if "**I wash thee not thou hast no part with me.**"

The word **part** signifies **fellowship**. Because there is a **saving relationship** then **fellowship** can be enjoyed.

The Lord is saying to Peter, "If I don't wash your feet, then we cannot have fellowship."

He was teaching a spiritual truth using the washing of feet, that in order to have fellowship with God, sin must be cleansed.

Believer, spend time at the Brazen Laver, the word of God. I'm here to help encourage you get back to the word, read it daily.

John 15:3 *"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."*