

We Have An Altar

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Hebrews 13:10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

- I. Again, we are dealing with stability and structure in the Christian life and walk.
 - A. Verses 1-17 are marked as a single paragraph and speak to this general subject of steadfastness, stability, and structure.
 - B. For thousands of years the worship of God was centered around the altar.
 - C. The worship of God and the knowledge of God was very rigid and structured.
 - 1. It was written and laid out in great detail, and any variation was unacceptable to God.
 - D. Now, suddenly, with the coming of Christ and the fulfillment of all that the ceremonial laws had foreshadowed, they are all done away with, and now the knowledge of God and the worship of God is through Jesus Christ, not the tabernacle and the old altar.
 - E. With all that removed it was confusing to a lot of people.
 - 1. Some kept trying to return to the old way it because it was so structured and it was established in “meats” – that is, things they could see and touch and partake of physically.
 - 2. Others just went off in all directions with divers and strange doctrines because of their lack of understanding of the truth.
 - F. But the work of Christ is a fuller and more complete revelation of God and his work and purpose with the human race.
 - 1. It also produces a fuller and more perfect work in the human heart and mind.
 - 2. Our hearts are to be established (made stable and steadfast) in grace and not in meats.

Hebrews 13:9 ... For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

- G. Therefore, we have this verse, and the following verses, which expound on this subject.
 - H. We still have an altar; a centerpiece of our faith; a structure to work from to understand, and to worship God in spirit and in truth.
 - 1. But it is not an altar where we bring our animal sacrifices and go through all those carnal ordinances.
 - 2. However, there are parallels to all those things in this age of grace.
- II. Our altar is centered around Jesus Christ and his great sacrifice for our sins, and all that is accomplished by the atonement He has made for our sins.

Hebrews 13:11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.

- A. Most of the sacrifices were eaten by the priests and by the people, except for the sacrifice for sin.

1. The thank offering, the peace offering, the wave offering, these were all part of a time of fellowship and feasting.
 2. The offering for sin was burnt outside the camp and was not eaten.
- B. The Passover was a separate ceremony and type of worship, and the New Testament tells us the Christ is our Passover now.

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

1. The Lord's Supper typifies this and is a spiritual thing, not a carnal ordinance.
- C. The basic idea that is being put across to us here is that Jesus Christ is to be the center of all our faith and worship and hope, as He is the fulfillment of all the law and the prophets.
- D. We are to go to Him outside the camp.
- E. We are to look for a continuing city, not an earthly Jerusalem, but a heavenly, that HE has gone to prepare for us.

Hebrews 13:14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

- F. Our praise and worship to God is to be through Christ and not through ceremonies and carnal ordinances.

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

1. This is a spiritual thing and not a carnal thing.
- G. The angel announced on the night of Christ's birth that He had come to bring peace on earth and good will toward man.

Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

1. This was what God always desired from his people, but the ceremonial laws and carnal ordinances were not the full revelation of himself to the people.

Romans 8:2-4 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

- H. We have an altar and we find all that we need to atone for our sins, everything to meet all our needs, and to sustain our lives there.
- I. Our altar is the cross of Christ and the empty tomb He walked out of.