

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Two : Taking Christ as the Burnt Offering
for God's Satisfaction and Expression

I. Overview :

The burnt offering signifies Christ as God's pleasure and satisfaction, as the One whose living on earth was absolutely for God. As the burnt offering, Christ was brought to the slaughter, skinned, and cut into pieces. We need to experience Christ as our burnt offering in His head, fat, inward parts, and the legs with the inwards being washed. The more we enjoy Christ as our burnt offering, the more we realize how sinful we are, and need to lay our hands on Him to join to Him. We need to take Christ as our burnt offering daily to enjoy Him as our enveloping power to cover, protect, preserve us. We are being reduced to ashes, brought into the transformation of the Triune God to become the materials for the building of the New Jerusalem for God's expression.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. How did Christ experience to be skinned?

Christ was skinned, stripped of the outward appearance of His human virtues. In Matthew 11:19, He was regarded as a gluttonous man and a drunkard. In Mark 3:22 the scribes were saying that the Lord Jesus was unclean and that He cast out demons by the lord, the king, of the flies. What slander! In John 8:48 the Jews said to Him, "Have we not spoken well in saying that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" A Samaritan is a person of mixed blood. Thus, the Lord Jesus was accused of being a person of mixture and of having a demon. This also was a kind of stripping.

B. When and where was the Lord Jesus cut into pieces?

When people spoke cruel things to Him as He hung on the cross. In Mark 15:29-32, those who were passing by twisted the Lord's words concerning the temple and told Him to save Himself. Was this not a cutting? Surely it was. The Lord Jesus also experienced the cutting when the chief priests and the scribes mocked Him, telling Him to come down from the cross that they might see and believe. He was cut into pieces by men during the first three hours.

Day 2 --

A. How is Christ's experience in being wisdom signified by the head of the burnt offering?

As a child the Lord Jesus grew and was filled with wisdom, and He kept advancing in wisdom. In the course of His ministry, the Lord Jesus spoke many maxims and words of wisdom. For example, in Mark 9:40 He said, "He who is not against us is for us," and in Matthew 12:30 He said, "He who is not with Me is against Me," The Lord's words are simple, but only He has the wisdom to speak such words.

B. Explain Christ's experience in His inwards.

When the Lord Jesus was twelve, He said, "Did you not know that I must be in the things of My Father?" The Lord's mind was occupied with the Father's business. Here we see how much He was inwardly for the Father. John 2:17 speaks of the Lord's zeal. "The zeal of Your house shall devour Me." Zeal is a matter of the emotion. In Matthew 26:39 the Lord Jesus prayed, "Yet not as I will, but as You will." This was a matter of the function of the Lord's will.

Day 3 --

A. Explain the meaning and experience of the laying on of hands.

To lay our hand on the offering means that we are one with the offering. By laying our hands on Christ as our burnt offering, we are joined to Him. Such an identification, indicates that all our weaknesses, defects, shortcomings, and faults become His and that all His virtues become ours. This is not exchange—it is union and it is a life of the burnt offering.

B. How do we apply being slaughtered to our church life and married life.

In a quarrel between husband and wife, if one of the two, would experience Christ in His experience of being brought to the slaughter, the quarrel would be swallowed up. The result will be the same concerning problems in the church, if in the church life we experience Christ in His experience of being brought to the slaughter, If we do not resist but allow others to bring us to the slaughter, we shall experience Christ in His death and shall have something of Christ to offer to God as a burnt offering.

Day 4 --

A. How do we experience what Paul experienced in being cut to pieces?

First Corinthians 4:13 reveals that Paul experienced this...Offscouring and scum are synonyms. Offscouring denotes what is thrown away in cleansing; hence, refuse, filth. Scum denotes that which is wiped off; hence, rubbish, refuse. To become the offscouring of the world and the scum of all things is to be cut into pieces.

B. How to apply to Leviticus 1 the legs of the burnt offering?

The legs of the burnt offering signify Christ's walk, and we also need to experience Christ in His walk. In Matthew 11:29 the Lord Jesus said, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me." This is to take the Lord's legs, His walk, and to experience Him in His walk. To learn Christ is to have His legs and feet in order to live, walk, and move exactly as He did.

Day 5 --

A. Explain why the burnt offering is God's food for God's satisfaction.

The offerings are God's food. To say that God is hungry and needs food is not according to our natural, human concept. The burnt offering is for God's satisfaction to fulfill His desire. The burnt offering is God's food, and only He is allowed to eat it. The fact that the entire offering is burned on the altar indicates that it is received by God. We may say that the fire which consumes the burnt offering is God's "mouth."

B. Why do we say proper worship involves the burnt offering and meal offering?

To offer the burnt offering for God's satisfaction and to offer the meal offering for our satisfaction and for sharing our satisfaction with God—this is real worship. Proper worship is a matter of satisfying God with Christ as the burnt offering, and of being satisfied with Christ as the meal offering and sharing this satisfaction with God. In real worship Christ as the burnt offering ascends to God, and Christ as the meal offering enters our being.

Day 6 --

A. Explain the ashes being a sign of God's acceptance of the burnt offering.

The ashes signify Christ reduced to nothing and they are a sign of God's acceptance of the burnt offering. For God to accept the burnt offering is for Him to turn it to ashes. Concerning this, Psalm 20:3 says, "May He remember all your meal offerings / And accept your burnt offering." The Hebrew word translated "accept" here actually means "turn to ashes." Ashes are indeed precious because they are a sign that our burnt offering has been accepted by God.

B. Expound the result of our being a burnt offering.

The result of our being a burnt offering will be something that carries out God's New Testament economy. Ashes indicate the result of Christ's death, which brings us to an end, that is, to ashes. But Christ's death brings in resurrection. In resurrection, the ashes become precious materials—gold, pearls, and precious stones—for the building of the New Jerusalem. All three precious materials come from the transformation of the ashes.

III. Conclusion :

The burnt offering signifies Christ as God's pleasure and satisfaction, as the One whose living on earth was absolutely for God. The burnt offering is for God's satisfaction; Christ has gone through the processes of being brought to the slaughter, skinned, cut into pieces, and experienced in His head, fat, inwards, legs, and in His being washed of the legs, inward parts. Just as apostle Paul experienced what Christ had experienced, so also we need to experience Him in His experience to partake in the burnt offering. The burnt offering is for God's expression; the priests take the skin of the burnt offering as an enveloping power to cover, protect, and preserve. Being reduced to ashes, putting the ashes at the east side of the altar, is an allusion to resurrection, ashes mean nothing to the worldly people; however, God has a high regard for these ashes, through transformation, ashes become precious materials for building and will consummate to become the New Jerusalem.