

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Three : The Continual Burnt Offering -- a Living Sacrifice

I. Overview :

The Burnt Offering typifies Christ not mainly in His redeeming man from sin but in His living a life that is absolutely for God and in His being the life that enables God's people to have such a living. John 7 reveals that Christ was fully qualified to be the burnt offering; living a life restricted from doing things for the self, the Lord sought the glory of God. In our Christian life and church life, there is a need for the continual burnt offering; every day in the morning and evening, on every Sabbath, at the beginning of every month, and during every festival, burnt offering were required. The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it must not go out until the morning. To live a life of the continual burnt offering is to be a living sacrifice that has life through resurrection. In Rom. 12:1, the bodies are plural, but the sacrifice is singular, implying that all our service in the Body of Christ and to God must be based on the fire from the altar of burnt offering.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. What does the burnt offering mean? How can that satisfy God?

The Hebrew word for the burnt offering literally means that which goes up and denotes something that ascends to God. The burnt offering typifies Christ not mainly in His redeeming man from sin but 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. It is God's food that God may enjoy it and be satisfied. This offering was to be offered daily, in the morning and in the evening.

B. Why does man before God need Christ first as the burnt offering?

Our realization was that we need Christ first as our trespass offering, but Leviticus revealed that because our first problem with God is not a matter of trespasses but a matter of not being for God. Though I may not be wrong with this person or that person, I am wrong with God because I am still not absolutely for Him. So our first need is Christ as the burnt offering.

Day 2 --

A. How did the Lord live a restricted life?

As One who lived a restricted life, a life restricted from doing things for self, the Lord sought the glory of God for God's satisfaction. When the Lord Jesus taught in the temple, the Jews marveled and said, "How does this man know letters, without ever having studied?" The Lord Jesus answered, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. Here we see that the Lord did not seek His own glory, in that He did not speak from Himself. Rather, He sought the glory of the One who sent Him.

B. Expound how God was expressed through the Lord in John 7?

The Lord's being a person who sought God's glory for God's satisfaction did not depend on what He did or on His works; it depended instead on the fact that He

was of God, that He was sent by God, that He came from God, and that He spoke God. John 7 does not record any work done by the Lord Jesus. This chapter reveals that He was a person restricted by God, that He was of God, that He was sent by God and came from God, and that He did not speak His own word but spoke God. When the Lord spoke God's word, God was expressed through His speaking.

Day 3 --

A. Explain how important of the offerings being offered at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting.

The Tent of Meeting in Leviticus 1:3 typifies Christ the Son as the place of offering. The offerings were offered at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. In order for an offering to be legitimate, it could not be offered anywhere else. In Deuteronomy 12:5- 14 God charged the Israelites not to offer anything outside of this place. Cain's offering was rejected because he offered something to God without taking Christ as the base for his offering.

B. Why do we say the entire Trinity is involved in the burnt offering?

God the Father is the Receiver; God the Son is the offering, the place of the offering, and the serving One; and God the Spirit is the washing One. The accepting fire refers to the entire Godhead. Especially when studying the Old Testament types, traditional, systematic teachings concerning the Trinity are altogether inadequate. Systematic teachings concerning the Trinity open the door for endless debate, because the Trinity is a mystery that we cannot completely understand.

Day 4 --

A. When was the burnt offering offered? How would the experience of consecration be increased and formed in us?

The burnt offering had to be offered every day, not only in the morning but also in the evening. On every Sabbath, at every new moon, and during every festival, special burnt offerings were required. Special burnt offerings were also needed at times of great events. Therefore, the burnt offering is one of the most important offerings in the Old Testament. If we would consecrate ourselves repeatedly in this way, the experience of consecration would be increased and formed in us.

B. How does the burnt offering relate to the Lord's coming back?

The burnt offering's being upon the hearth on the altar all night until the morning signifies that what is offered should remain at the burning place through the dark night until morning. "All night" means all this dark age. The age we are in is a dark night. The burnt offering should be burning continually through the whole night until the morning. The real sunrising will be the Lord's coming back, and we are waiting for this.

Day 5 --

A. Explain the meaning of consecration.

The sacrifices offered as a burnt offering were burnt on the altar and became a sweet savor, food for God. When God accepted the sweet savor of these sacrifices, He was satisfied. The offering of these sacrifices is a type of our consecration. The meaning, therefore, of offering ourselves as a sacrifice is offering ourselves to God as food that He will be pleased to accept and thus find satisfaction.

B. Why is it a living sacrifice as the consecration in Rom.12?

The consecration in Romans 12 is the first reaction to God's work in the life of a Christian. This reaction is the presenting of ourselves as a living sacrifice to God. This means that we can constantly present ourselves to the hand of the Lord. We can offer up ourselves as sacrifices to the Lord continually, and the Lord can use us continually. The first thing a Christian should be to the Lord is a living sacrifice.

Day 6 --

A. How should we do if we want to have the Body life?

In order to have the Body life, we need to have our body presented both to the Lord and to the Body. In His salvation the Lord has released our body from the usurping hand of the enemy, Satan. Now, in the organic union with Christ, we need to present our released body to the Lord for the Body life.

B. Why does the service that we render to God have to originate from the fire on the altar of burnt offering?

The offering of the burnt offering was the prerequisite for fire to descend from heaven. God wanted the service of the children of Israel to be based on this fire. The burning of incense was their service to God, but the fire used for burning incense had to be taken from the altar. Hence, the service that we render to God must originate from the fire on the altar of burnt offering, and our service must be the issue of the burning of this fire.

III. Conclusion :

In Leviticus the first offering that is mentioned is the burnt offering, which typifies Christ in His living a life that is completely, absolutely for God and in His being the life that enables God's people to have such a living. This offering is God's food; according to the ordinances concerning burnt offering, there is a need for the continual offering every day in the morning and evening, on every Sabbath, at the beginning of every month, and during every festival. The fire on the altar shall be kept burning all night until the morning, until the Lord Jesus comes again. In order to have the fire descended, we need to have some sacrifices on the altar; in order for the fire not going out, there is a great need for us to offer ourselves to the Lord willingly and continually by adding the woods. The fire being strong or weak depends on the levels of sacrifice; the more we offer ourselves in our will, heart, time, and finance, the more the fire burns strongly.