

Series: Exodus
Title: Christ in the Brass Laver
Text: Ex 30: 17-21
Date: June
Place: SGBC, NJ

Exodus 30: 17: And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 18: Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. 19: For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: 20: When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: 21: So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.

Subject: Christ in the Brass Laver

Now, before we see what is pictured here, we need to remember what God had already done in his priests.

First, the priests were washed all over by another—we must first be regenerated by God the Holy Spirit—not by works of righteousness we have done. It is by the Holy Spirit of God that we are regenerated. By God’s mercy he saves us by the washing of regeneration. Regeneration is performed once, it is not done again.

Secondly, the holy garments were put on them by another—when the Spirit of God brings us to faith in Christ, God our Father imputes Christ’s righteousness to the believer through faith.

God accomplishes the work of regeneration through the gospel of Christ crucified, typified on the brazen altar. The priests were made to behold: *the sin-offering*: we are brought to behold Christ crucified, bearing the sins of his people and purging them all away so that we are justified before the law of God; *the burnt-offering*: we are brought to behold Christ’s obedience unto the death of the cross whereby Christ made us accepted of holy God by his righteousness alone; *the consecration-offering*: the blood and oil were applied to the priests—the Oil of the Spirit of God purges our consciences with the blood of Christ giving us communion/fellowship with God, so that we are made willing to serve Christ; *the burnt-meat offerings*: beholding our salvation in Christ alone, believers offer up the sacrifice of praise, giving God all the glory for our salvation and our praise is accepted by Jesus Christ

Be sure to get this, at this point we have a picture of a believer already born-again and brought to faith in Christ, already redeemed, justified, accepted by the blood of Christ, already consecrated by the Spirit of God, already a holy, sanctified priest unto God. So what do we have typified in the brass laver?

Proposition: Though a believer be justified in Christ and never more so, though we be sanctified in Christ and made holy with Christ dwelling in us and shall never be more so, still, in order to have continual communion with God, every believer has a daily need to come to Christ who continually cleanses us of daily defilement acquired from our sinful flesh and this sinful world.

The night the Lord Jesus washed the disciples’ feet Peter asked to be washed all over. Christ said, “*He who is washed only needs to wash his feet, for he is clean every whit.*” Christ Jesus washed the believer completely clean in the sight of God the Judge, before the law, once and for all time by his one offering. The Spirit of God washed us in regeneration so that we are holy with Christ our Sanctification dwelling in us—there is no change in our justification or our sanctification, it is done. But Christ must cleanse us from daily defilements that interrupt our communion with him and our ability to approach holy God in worship and prayer.

THE LAVER AND THE WATER

Exodus 30: 18: Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal:

This was a laver of brass which held water. The water flowed from the laver down. It flowed down to the base. Then out of spickets it flowed to the priests and washed their hands and their feet.

First, the laver of brass itself typifies Christ himself

Jeremiah 2: 13: For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Christ is our Justifier and our justification and Christ is our Sanctifier and our sanctification. Out of Christ’s side flowed blood and water—blood for our justification, water for our sanctification.

Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath [blood] and make me pure [water]

Zechariah 13: 1: In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin [justification] and for uncleanness. [sanctification/purification]

So the laver itself typifies Christ the Fountain of Life. He justified us of our sin before the law by his blood. He sanctifies us and continues to purify us from uncleanness by the water that he gives.

Secondly, the water typifies two things. One, the water typifies the Holy Spirit of God. From Christ the Laver, through his finished work of redemption, flows the water of Life, the Holy Spirit. Where did they get the water for this fountain? They were in a desert. The water came from the Smitten Rock! — “*That Rock was Christ*” (1 Corinthians 10:4). The Spirit of God is given us through the finished work of Christ.

Galatians 3: 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: 14: THAT the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; THAT we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Ga 3:13-14)

Titus 3: 3: For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another. 4: But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6: Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7: THAT being [having been] justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. [by being born again].

Through the justifying blood of Christ, Christ gives the Holy Spirit. It is he that is pictured in the water first. He washes his elect in regeneration one time. But the Spirit continually renews us, purging our conscious, washing our hands and feet. It is this continual renewal that we have pictured at the laver.

Also, the water typifies the word of God—the gospel we preach, the holy scriptures. Like the water flowed down from the laver to the priests, Christ sends the water of the word which is a proclamation of Christ’s person and finished work. Christ speaks the word into our hearts making his child clean.

Ephesians 5: 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word 27: That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

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

So the laver is Christ. The water is the Holy Spirit of God and the word of God (the gospel we preach, the scriptures). Christ cleanses his people of daily defilement by the water of the word through the Holy Spirit.

THE NEED DUE TO DEFILEMENT

Exodus 30: 18...and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. 19: For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: 20: When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: 21: So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not:

As the priests went about their daily work their hands were in constant contact with death. Therefore, their hands were unclean. They did not wear shoes so their feet would become dirty. So they had to wash before approaching the altar to offer thank offerings and before entering the holy place to worship at the golden altar of incense.

In our everyday lives we constantly come into contact with death—our sinful flesh and this sinful world. All believers will know what I am about to say. We start the week renewed through the preaching of the gospel by the Holy Spirit from Christ our Lord. But before long our minds are taken up with our jobs, responsibilities, our troubles and trials. We become set on self and the world rather than Christ.

Our old man of sin becomes stronger, our new man weaker. An unloving spirit begins to replace a loving spirit. An unforgiving spirit begins to replace a forgiving spirit. Strife and envy begin to replace joy and peace. The self-righteous pride of our old man begins to replace the sin-hating, meek and contrite new man.

Sometimes the devil accuses us. His objective is to turn us from Christ. He feeds our self-righteousness. We become haughty, arrogant judges of our brethren. Or we try to do some work to soothe our conscious. We must be cleansed.

The purpose of this cleansing was so the priests could have communion with God at the brazen altar and in the holy place at the golden altar of incense. When we attain defilement we begin to lose communion with God in Christ. Without communion with God we die. This cleansing was so “they die not.”

When defiled we are like a branch that is almost severed from the vine. If Christ allowed us to fall away from the Vine, from him, we would die. So Christ washes us from those defilements giving us communion with holy God our Father and his Son, Christ Jesus.

God is holy so he cannot receive us unless we be cleansed

Revelation 21:27: And there shall in no wise enter into [God's holy presence] any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Psalm 24: 3: Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4: He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

When a believer becomes overcome with a hard, self-righteous, condemning spirit, it is impossible to have communion with God. We have to be cleansed so we can look to Christ.

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Or if a believer is anxious about his work, overly careful about our family or overcome with some outward sin, we may go through the motions but our minds are not on God. We are thinking on something else or thinking, "I hope they hear that!" Christ must cleanse us with the washing of the water by the word through the Holy Spirit renewing us. Then we enter into communion with God. We have an illustration of this in how they made this brass laver.

Exodus 38:8: And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the lookingglasses of *the women* assembling, which assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

As they left Egypt the Egyptians gave the Israelite women brass looking glasses. They did not have glass in them like our mirrors. They were polished brass in which to look at themselves. It pictures the world, our sin, and the devil turning us to self, to vanity away from Christ. But through his preacher, God sent his word and the Israelite women let go of those looking glasses. They were melted and made the brass laver typifying Christ. It pictures God drawing us to Christ, through his word, through which the Spirit cleanses us from self to Christ. So God gets the glory. Though it is our responsibility to come, it is Christ who draws us. He begins cleansing before the cleansing in order to make us come to this fountain.

THE CLEANSING WORK

Zechariah 12: 10: And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn. 11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem...

Zechariah 13:1: In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Here we see how Christ performs this cleansing work.

First, he makes you willing to come hear the gospel—the fountain for cleansing—then he blesses it through the Holy Spirit, "*I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications.*" When Christ pours on us the Holy Spirit of grace, he makes a sinner love God's grace freely given. He makes a believer supplicate God for grace. And the Spirit of grace makes the believer gracious. It is impossible to continue in an ungracious, unforgiving spirit when the Holy Spirit of grace effectually works in our hearts.

Then Christ makes us behold Christ. He makes us behold our sins piercing Christ which makes us mourn for Christ, "*...and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. 11: In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem.*" We mourn sin only when we mourn our sin nailing Christ to the cross. Who nailed Christ to the tree? We have to be made to see it was our sins, my sins!

The naughty whip, the rugged nails in vain do I accuse
In vain I blame the roman band and the more spiteful Jews
Twas you my sin, my cruel sin, his chief tormentors where
Each of your crimes became a nail and your unbelief a spear
Twas you, you, that pulled the vengeance down upon his guiltless head
Break, break my heart, weep my eyes, he died in your stead

Beholding our sinful acts will not make us repent from sin. Feeling guilty will not make us truly repent from sin. Only beholding our sins upon Christ on the cursed tree will work true repentance. It is only when we mourn our sin in the face of Christ that we will we truly hate our sin and turn from it. It is impossible to behold your sin on Christ and not mourn. It is impossible to be unforgiving, unmerciful, unloving when Christ effectually works this work because you see what it

cost to give you forgiveness and mercy. Christ crucified by your sins personally is the only thing that will make you hate your sin.

At last that spirit of grace will make you supplicate God for grace and here is what we are shown, *“In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.”* Our text says this fountain was perpetual throughout their generations. Christ continues all our days, through the preaching of Christ crucified, sending the Holy Spirit and washing away our uncleanness by giving us a sight of him crucified for us personally so that we plunge into this fountain.

The sick child pushes away the medicine but they have great need for the medicine. When we need the word most is when we think we are unable to even hear it. When we have no desire to hear the gospel or read the word is when we need it most. Believer, come hear the gospel anyway, listen to a sermon anyway, read the word of God anyway. Christ will bless it by cleansing you with the Holy Spirit and by the word.

James 4: 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Psalm 119: 9: Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way, by taking heed to the Word of God?

Come to the water of the word, Christ will send the water of the Spirit and cleanse his child inwardly. Convincing us of sin he makes us hate it and repent. Then like the first hour we were born again, we are able to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and have communion with God and love our brethren. Then we stop condemning brethren and love brethren for Christ's sake.

1 Peter 1: 22: Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever

Have you come to the fountain today? Then go out renewed, strengthened. But by this afternoon you will need to come to the fountain again. So go to his word. Tomorrow you need it again. Wake early and read his word. Daily we need this cleansing fountain. By Thursday we will need to come to the fountain again. Never stop coming to Christ through the word through the Holy Spirit. Keep your eye on Christ! May God never let us go without cleansing.

Amen!