

The Tabernacle – The Brazen Laver

Slide #2 – Journey to God's Presence

- Adam & Eve enjoyed God's presence, but they sinned
 - God is a holy God
 - sin separates man from God's presence
 - holiness and sin cannot occupy the same space (just as light and darkness cannot)
 - Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden (where God's presence was) – going westward
 - To enter the Garden of Eden & the Tabernacle required moving eastward (a symbol of light)
 - The Tabernacle – God was teaching how to **COME BACK** into His presence (relationship)
 - **Midst** of Garden, camp, Tabernacle & candlesticks – God must be the center of our lives
- righteousness & unity (curtains) of the saints point to the Gate (Lord, King & Savior Jesus Christ)
- 1st thing you saw after passing the curtains was the Altar of Brass
 - emphasizes – you must deal with your sins – you cannot go any further
 - you are responsible for YOUR sins
 - the penalty for sinning (wages) = death
 - O.T. = a **temporary** substitute offering (animal) was made
 - N.T. = a **FINAL** substitutionary sacrifice was made (Jesus on Calvary)
 - But the sacrifice alone does NOT give man access to the presence of God
- The blood of Jesus washes away the sins of our **PAST** (represented by the Brazen Altar)
 - you are put in right standing with God = justification
- As you continue going forward (into a relationship with God – into the Tabernacle Proper)
 - questions to consider:
 - if you **sin AGAIN**, can you continue to move forward in your relationship with God?
 - No! God is a holy God – He cannot have sin in His presence
 - does the power of the blood keep us FROM sinning?
 - song – "the blood that gives me strength from day to day" – is that right?
 - the power in the blood was for SINS THAT ARE **PAST!**
 - the blood DOES NOT **keep** us from sinning (present and future)
 - if sin keeps you from God's presence, how can you **stop** sinning?
- What is next in the Tabernacle courtyard?

Slide #3 – The Brazen Laver

- Exodus 30:18 "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."
 - **What is a "laver"?**
 - basin, bowl
 - **What is the laver's purpose?**
 - holds water – "to wash"
 - purpose: "For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat"
 - only the priests could go past the altar of sacrifice
 - only the priests could wash in the laver
 - not a washing with soap and water – it was a ceremonial washing (symbolic)
 - **What are the dimensions of the laver?** – not given
 - Hebrew word kiyor properly means "something round"
 - it has a base ("foot")
 - **Where is the laver's location?**
 - between the altar and the Tabernacle

- both the altar and the laver are in a straight line with the door of the Tabernacle
- **What is the laver made out of?**
 - Exodus 38:8 "And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the lookingglasses of the women assembling"
 - brass polished until it shone so brightly that it served as mirrors

Slide #4 – What Does the Brazen Laver Represent?

- every time the priest went in the Tabernacle to minister
 - he washed his hands and feet (poured water over them)
- to teach purity in all the priest's services (work)
- teach the priests to dread the pollution of sin
 - like the awfulness of killing the animals was to give them a hatred for sin
 - teach and reinforce how serious sin is in God's eyes
- the act of washing the hands symbolized purity in their **ACTIONS**
- washing the feet symbolized holiness in all their **WALK** and **CONVERSATION**
 - The hands and the feet represent man's whole walk of life
- Hebrew saying: his "goings out" and his "comings in"
 - Psalm 121:8 "The LORD shall preserve [watch over, protect] thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."
 - Solomon asked for wisdom from the Lord because "I know not how to go out or come in" (1 Kings 3:7)
 - the laver helps us understand we need God's help in our "comings" and "goings"
 - Jeremiah 10:23 "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."
- laver was made of the women's "lookingglasses" = it worked as a mirror
- James 1:23 compares the Word to "a glass"
 - other versions = "mirror"

Slide #5 – The Word Is a Mirror

- before we can have a relationship with God (James 1:21 AMP):
 - **(1)** salvation requires looking into the laver
 - "get rid of all uncleanness" (have to see it to get rid of it)
 - this happens through the preaching of the Word (Word is God's mirror); 2 Corinthians 1:21
 - **(2)** We must "receive and welcome the word which is implanted in your hearts"
 - "implanted" – the Holy Spirit MUST take up residence in our heart
 - Jesus through His Spirit will be Lord & King when He lives in our heart
 - **(3)** We must act on it (submission, obedience) — "be ye doers of the word"
 - whatever "dirt" the Word reveals, whatever old ways that caused the sin must be REMOVED
 - God's Spirit shows us what it is and helps us to remove it
 - what are some old ways that need to be removed?
 - wrong attitudes, lying, cheating, ungodly videos & music
- There is no use in arguing with the "mirror" (the Word).
 - Some people come to an altar to be saved and say:
 - "I'm not giving up _____."
 - "I don't believe that is necessary – Other people aren't doing that."
 - "I'm a good person."
 - "I don't believe I can live that way."
 - "I know what I need to do but ..."
- Look into the "laver" – what does the Word say?

Slide #6 – The Word Removes What CAUSES Sin

- Two things must happen at salvation:
 - (1) **forgiveness** of sins that are PAST (not future) – blood @ the Altar
 - (2) a **cleansing** of what caused the sin (our ways) – washing @ the Laver
- Psalm 119:9 "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed ... to thy word."
 - it is our "way" that needs to be cleansed – what **CAUSED** the sinning
 - we need God's Holy Spirit living in our hearts
- Psalm 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
 - the Word keeps sin out of our heart
 - You can keep sin OUT when the Word is in its proper place
 - This is how you stay saved
 - children's song: "Read your Bible, pray EVERY DAY!"
 - Revelation 15:2-4 tells us people who have victory over sin are standing on the "sea of glass" (also called the Brazen Sea or the Brazen Laver)
 - to stand on something requires **knowing** what it is
 - if you do not know what it is, opinions can move you off of the Word
 - John 8:31 "If [conditional] ye [personal] continue [requires action] in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed."

Slide #7 – "That They Die Not"

- Exodus 30:20 "When they [the priests] go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not."
 - just as the priests washed continually @ the laver ...
 - we need the Word to continually show us areas of our life that are not pleasing to God
 - John 8:31 – we must "continue in my word"
 - Ephesians 5:26 – we are made holy ("sanctify") by "the washing of the water by the word"
 - Without the washing of the water of the Word, we will die spiritually
 - Matthew 12:44 describes the experience of salvation:
 - "swept" = clean (sins have been forgiven – Jesus' part)
 - "garnished" = put in order (in right standing – God's part)
 - "but empty" = no Holy Spirit living inside
 - what happens?
 - Matthew 12:45 – the evil spirit sees this and brings "seven other spirits more wicked than himself" to take up residence in the man's heart
 - we cannot stay ALIVE (spiritually) without the Holy Spirit taking up residence in our life
 - When the Holy Spirit comes into your heart, your nature is changed
 - you want to do what is right

Slide #8 – Justified & Sanctified

- 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."
 - "in that day" – when Jesus was sacrificed for the sins of the world (the Gospel Day)
- John 19:34 "One of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."
 - "blood" = for sins that are past
 - "water" = for uncleanness (what caused the sins – our ways)
 - Proverbs 14:12 "there is a way that seemeth right"
- 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, **AND** to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"
 - 2 things happen @ salvation:

- "forgive our sins"
- "cleanse from unrighteousness"
 - we are able to live a holy (sin-free) life = that is sanctification
 - sanctification definition = set apart to do God's will (NOT our will, our way)
- here we see justification (in right standing) and sanctification (made holy)
- 1 Corinthians 6:11 "ye are sanctified, but ye are justified"
 - These two **MUST ALWAYS** go together.
 - both flowed from the Jesus' side (water and blood)
- "Justification is a judicial act by which the sinner is pronounced righteous; sanctification is a moral work by which the sinner is made holy" (A. W. Pink)
- Justification is a finished work; sanctification is a progressive (ongoing) work.

Slide #9 – "The Double Cure"

- Rock of Ages: "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure."
 - "the water and the blood" is "the double cure"
 - "save from wrath" — we are saved from God's wrath (penalty for sin) by the blood of Jesus
 - "make me pure" — we are made holy and can live holy when God's Spirit comes into our heart

Slide #10 – A New Heart

- Ezekiel 36:25 "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you."
 - "filthiness" = uncleanness
 - "ye shall be clean" (how?)
- Ezekiel 36:26-27 "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. . . . and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."
 - "stony heart" = old, stubborn ways (your ways, when you were led by the devil to do wrong)
 - "new spirit" = the evil spirit is removed, and God's Spirit comes into your heart
 - "heart of flesh" = a tender, obedient heart; a heart that wants to please God
 - God's Spirit helps us to obey God's Word (God's judgments)
 - Now we can move into the Tabernacle Proper (God's presence)