

# Church of God

## Sunday School



### THE TABERNACLE #4 – THE BRAZEN LAVER

#### DAILY READINGS:

- ❑ **Monday:** God told Moses to make a laver of brass (Exodus 30:17-21).
- ❑ **Tuesday:** The pattern for a straight line represents walking in straight paths (Exodus 40:7; Hebrews 12:13).
- ❑ **Wednesday:** We need God's help in our goings and comings (Psalm 121:8; 1 Kings 3:7; Jeremiah 10:23).
- ❑ **Thursday:** The Word (like a mirror) can keep sin out of our lives (Exodus 38:8; Psalm 119:9-11; James 1:23).
- ❑ **Friday:** Salvation is a "double cure" (Zechariah 13:1; John 19:34; 1 John 1:9).
- ❑ **Saturday:** Salvation includes a change of heart (Ezekiel 11:18-20; Ezekiel 36:25-27).

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."* —Psalm 119:11

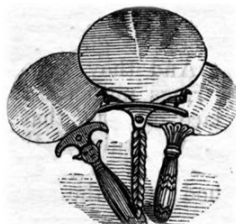
#### Relationship With God Requires a Sin-Free Life

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve enjoyed being in God's presence, but their sin brought a separation. A holy God cannot allow sin in His presence. So Adam and Eve were sent out of the garden. Yet, God had a plan to bring people back into a right relationship with Him. The Tabernacle helped explain this plan. God used physical objects and worship practices to show what is required to come into His presence. Nothing unclean or impure could enter. For sinful people to approach a holy God, they had to come His way (following the pattern). The only way to God is through His Son, Jesus Christ.

When someone entered the Tabernacle courtyard, the first thing he saw was the Altar of Brass. There sacrifices for sins were offered. This teaches that to be in a right relationship with God requires first dealing with our sins. Jesus paid the price for our sins through His sacrifice on the Cross. When we are saved, His blood washes away the sins we committed in the PAST. But the journey toward God's presence (symbolized by the Holy of Holies) continues. God does not allow sin in His presence. The Brazen Altar represents forgiveness of PAST sins. So what keeps us from continuing to sin? The next piece of furniture teaches a valuable lesson about living free from sin.

Before the entrance of the Tabernacle Proper stood "a laver of brass" (Exodus 30:18; 40:7). This placement was intentional. The Brazen Altar and the Laver of Brass were in a straight line with the Tabernacle. To reach the Holy Place required walking in a straight line (teaching the necessity of walking in "straight paths"; Hebrews 12:13).

Before entering the Tabernacle, the priests poured water from this round basin to "wash their hands and their feet" (Exodus 30:19). This taught the need for purity. Washing the hands symbolized purity in their *actions*. Washing the feet symbolized holiness in all their daily *walk* and *conversations*. Together, the hands and the feet represent a person's entire way of life. An old Hebrew saying speaks of man's "goings out" and his "comings in." The Laver teaches to live a holy life, we need God's help in all our "comings and goings."



#### Cleansing of What Caused the Sin—Our Way

The laver was made from polished metal (the women's "lookingglasses"; Exodus 38:8). When the priest looked into the laver, he saw his reflection. James 1:23 compares God's Word to a "glass" (or mirror). Why is the Word needed when we get saved? Two things must happen at salvation: (1) forgiveness of past sins (not future), and (2) the cause of sin (our way) must be

cleansed. Proverbs 14:12 warns that our way ("a way which seemeth right") leads to "death." Our way needs to be removed (cleansed). Psalm 119:9 says, "A young man [shall] cleanse his way by taking heed" to God's "word." The Word keeps sin out of our lives. This is more than daily reading a few Bible verses. We need God's Holy Spirit living in our hearts. He gives us the power to say "no" to sin and live a holy life. This is why the devil works to keep people away from God's Word. To stay in a right relationship with God, we must "continue in [His] word" (John 8:31). When the "word" is "in mine heart," it keeps sin out (Psalm 119:11).

When the Holy Spirit comes into your life, your desires change. You want to do what is right, and He gives you the power to do so. People in the Old Testament "desired to see" this experience (Matthew 13:17), but it was not available until after Jesus came. They continued to offer sacrifices for sin, but Jesus made "one sacrifice for sins for ever" (Hebrews 10:12). After Jesus returned to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit (also called the Comforter and the Holy Ghost) to "abide with you [live within] for ever" (John 14:16).

The plan of salvation includes God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost (often called the Trinity). All are important. God created the plan of salvation; Jesus put the plan into action; and the Holy Ghost manages the plan. Matthew 12:44-45 warns about a heart that has been forgiven but left empty. What happens if your "house" (heart) has been "swept" (sins forgiven by Jesus' blood), is "garnished" (put in order, declared to be in right standing with God), but is "empty" (no Holy Spirit living inside)? When the devil sees this empty heart, he will move back in.

**Salvation Requires**



(1) Forgiveness of sins that are past

(2) Cleansing (removal) of what caused the sin

**The Double Cure—Blood and Water**



Zechariah 13:1 prophesies of "that day" (the Gospel Day) when "a fountain" would be opened "for sin and for uncleanness." When Jesus died, a soldier pierced His side, and "blood and water" flowed out (John 19:34). Jesus' Sacrifice opened up the way ("a fountain") for our sins to be washed away (by the "blood") and to live a holy life (by the "water"). This includes forgiveness of "sins" and cleansing "from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). These two parts of salvation (represented by the "blood and water") are called *remission* and *regeneration* (Romans 3:24; Titus 3:5). Both are necessary.

*Remission* (forgiveness of sins) and *regeneration* (living a holy life) must always go together. We cannot have our sins forgiven and then continue living in sin. Salvation requires forgiveness of sins (a finished work) and holy living (an ongoing process).

The hymn "Rock of Ages" explains this beautifully: "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 "double cure" (both parts of salvation) is "the water and the blood." We are saved "from wrath" (the penalty for sin) and can live "pure" (a holy life).

**A New Heart**

Salvation includes a change of heart. God promises in 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."

- "The stony heart" represents your old, stubborn ways (when you were led by the devil to do wrong).
- "A new spirit" comes in when God removes the evil spirit and His Spirit moves into your heart.
- At salvation, God gives you "an heart of flesh" (a tender, obedient heart that desires to please Him).

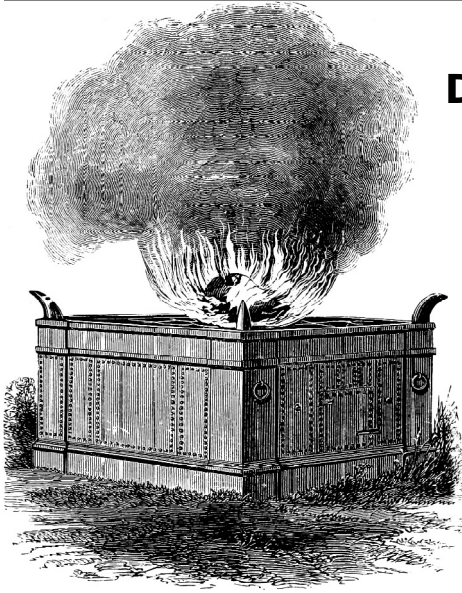
Have you experienced the change from a "stony heart" to "an heart of flesh"? From following your way to following God's ways? When you look into God's Word (the "laver"), are you living to everything He has shown you? This is the only path to staying in a right relationship with God.

# Bible Quiz



1. Why were Adam and Eve sent out of the Garden of Eden?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. When we get saved, the blood of Jesus washes away the sins that are \_\_\_\_\_ (represented by the Brazen Altar).
3. Before going into the Tabernacle Proper, why did the priests wash their hands and feet? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the Brazen Laver made from? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does James 1:23 compare the Word to? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How does Psalm 119:9 tell us our way can be cleansed? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why are animal sacrifices no longer needed (Hebrews 10:12)? \_\_\_\_\_
8. After Jesus returned to Heaven, Who did He send? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the Trinity? \_\_\_\_\_
10. When the soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear, what came out? \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_ (forgiveness of sins) and \_\_\_\_\_  
(holy living) must always go together.
12. What hymn describes the "double cure"? \_\_\_\_\_
14. "The \_\_\_\_\_ heart" represents your old, stubborn ways.
15. "An heart of \_\_\_\_\_" is a tender, obedient heart that desires to please God.

# THE DOUBLE CURE



A cure for sin or uncleanness?  
Draw a line from the lesson words and phrases to the Altar OR the Laver.

**"Save from wrath"**

**"Make me pure"**

**Blood**

**Water**

**"Lookingglass," or a mirror**

## BRAZEN ALTAR

**Cleansing of what caused the sin**

**"The wages of sin is death"**

**Forgiveness of sins that are past**



## BRAZEN LAVER

**"In the Old Testament, the New is hidden; in the New Testament, the Old lies open."**