

"The Better Sanctuary"

Part 3

Hebrews 9:1-12

Introduction: Tonight we shall continue our study of the Tabernacle furniture and how it all was a shadow of Jesus Christ. This study started because in Hebrews 9:1-12 the writer of Hebrews writes of the typology of the Tabernacle furniture. Now in Hebrews 9:1-12 the writer does not speak of every piece of furniture. He only writes concerning that which was located in the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. But in our study we are looking at the furniture which is also located outside the Holy Place. The area outside the Holy Place was known as the outer court and in the outer court there was located 2 pieces of furniture.

✓ The Brazen Altar

This we looked at last week in our study. This was the very first article of furniture inside the outer court and it was the place where all the sacrifices were made. This entire Altar pointed to the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. The Furnishings of the Earthly Sanctuary

Part 3

I. The Brazen Laver

Let me first of all show you the verses that pertain to the Laver.

Exodus 30:17-21

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.*

Here we see that the Laver was a brass bowl of water that was placed between the Brazen Altar and the Holy Place. It was for the cleansing of the priests before they were permitted to enter into the Holy Place. The priests would have blood on their hands and dirt on their feet and this all needed to be cleaned away before they could come into the presence of God. Many believe the water in the Laver was replenished continually from the water which came from the Rock in the wilderness.

Let us notice what the Laver was made from.

Exodus 38:8

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.

Here we see the Laver was constructed from the "mirrors" given by the women of Israel. These would have been made out of finely polished brass.

Next we see the position of the Laver.

Exodus 40:7

⁷ And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.

Now let us see how all of this pertains to us who are believers.

A. The Use of the Laver

The common man was never permitted to make use of the Laver. It was only the priests who were preparing to enter into the presence of the Lord who washed in the Laver.

Exodus 30:19

¹⁹ For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat:

Now someone would ask, "How then does the Laver apply to the believer's life today?" When we accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior we were then made "priests" and so as "priests" we are able to now come into the presence of the father. Under the Old Covenant the common man could not get any closer than the door of the Tabernacle and the Brazen Altar. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin but the blood of Jesus Christ takes away our sin and now we are able to enter into the presence of the Father at any time. Let me show you what Peter recorded.

1 Peter 2:5, 9

⁵ *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

⁹ *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;*

Now just as the descendants of Aaron had to be "born" into the family of Aaron so we are also priests because of our NEW BIRTH.

1 Peter 1:23

²³ ***Being born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

So because the Laver was for the priests of the Old Testament so it is a picture of something very important in our lives because we too are priests.

B. The Position of the Laver

The Laver was located between the Brazen Altar and the Holy Place.

Exodus 40:7

⁷ *And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.*

The Brazen Altar (which we looked at last week) speaks of our JUSTIFICATION. You see, our sin was all taken away at the cross which is represented by the Brazen Altar so at the cross we were JUSTIFIED which means to be declared righteous. The Laver then speaks of our SANCTIFICATION.

The word "sanctify" means "to set apart". Our sanctification can be seen in 3 tenses.

Past Tense – When we came to Jesus Christ for salvation we were POSITIONALLY set apart from all sin. This POSITION will never change.

Hebrews 10:10-14

¹⁰ *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

¹¹ *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:*

¹² *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

¹³ *From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

We were sanctified by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and by that very same offering we were perfected forever.

Present Tense- While we walk this earthly path which God has appointed for us we are "progressively being sanctified". This happens as we daily walk in the Truth of God's Word and we separate ourselves from sin and allow the Holy Spirit to cleanse us each and every day. We will come back to this in a moment.

Future Tense- There is coming a day when not only will we be sanctified positionally but we will also be sanctified practically also.

1 John 3:2

² *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Now the Laver pertains to the PRESENT TENSE of our sanctification.

C. The Contents of the Laver

Exodus 30:18, 20

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.*

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:*

The Laver was to be filled with water which the priests would use to wash their hands and their feet. In the Bible water is symbolic of the Word of God. I will show you some verses in a moment but allow me first of all to pull some thoughts together.

The Brazen Alter pictures the cross where we were JUSTIFIED. After our salvation we start into the process of progressive sanctification and this happens as we study the

Word of God and we allow the Holy Spirit to apply the Word of God to our lives. It is this process that cleanses us from the defilements of this world so that we may then walk in fellowship with our Lord. Now let me show you some verses.

Psalm 119:9

⁹ *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

John 15:1-3

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

³ *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

Ephesians 5:25-26

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,*

1 Peter 1:22

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:*

Then there is a verse in Hebrews that gives us a wonderful picture of the Laver.

Hebrews 10:22

²² *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

So the Laver is a picture of the need of the believer's walk to be purified so that we may enjoy sweet fellowship with the Lord.

John 13:4-8

⁴ *He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.*

⁵ *After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.*

⁶ *Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?*

⁷ *Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.*

⁸ Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, **If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.**

Notice that Jesus told Peter that without the washing he could have no part with Him. Jesus did not say He could have no part in Him. Peter was already saved but he was about to be taught that in order to have the close fellowship WITH the Lord his daily walk had to be cleansed. Jesus took the water from the basin just like the priests would have taken water from the Laver. This entire process by our Lord was a spiritual picture of the daily need of cleansing so that we as believers can have fellowship with our Lord. There is yet something else we need to see then we will pull this altogether.

D. The Composition of the Laver

Exodus 38:8

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.

The Laver was made out of the mirrors which the women of Israel gave for this article of furniture. But why do we need to know the Laver was made out of mirrors?

The mirrors speak of SELF EXAMINATION. So this now adds another dimension to our progressive sanctification. This reminds me of something that James wrote.

James 1:22-25

²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man **beholding his natural face in a glass:**

²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

²⁵ But whoso **looketh into** the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James speaks of the Word of God working as a mirror to reflect back to us the "dirt" that needs to be cleansed from our lives which has attached to us as we walk through this world. James was writing to Jewish believers and so they would have made the connection back to the Tabernacle and the Laver. Now let me pull all of this together.

We have been JUSTIFIED when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior. Now the Spirit of God is working in our lives to set us apart from sin every single day. We MUST wash in the WORD on a daily basis because if we do not then we can have no fellowship with our

Lord. We must look into the PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY just as we would look into a mirror and as we do we must surrender over to the Holy Spirit the areas of our lives which He desires to cleanse. As He reveals to us the defilement that has attached to us in our walk we must confess it to our Lord before we can ever enjoy the fellowship which He has for us.

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Conclusion:

David describes it all very well in Psalm 24.

Psalm 24:3-4a

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;