

You Are the Temple

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| Scripture: | |
| Announcements: | |
| Scripture Reading: | |
| RECAP: | <p>So, last week we talked about the new covenant and how the new and old covenants are different.</p> <p>—We saw that in the new covenant Christ does the heavy lifting and we are challenged to allow Him to work and seek out the work that He is doing and join Him in becoming new creatures.</p> <p>—We saw how we are sinful and that we need God’s laws written on our hearts and in our minds.</p> <p>—We saw how the old covenant was an external covenant and we need an internal covenant.</p> <p>—We saw the importance of repentance in our lives.</p> <p>—We also talked about what kind of seeds we are planting in our hearts. Are we planting worldly seeds or godly seeds?</p> |
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| INTRODUCTION: | <p>This morning, we are going to look at the tabernacle/ temple and the elements that are inside them and how they point us to Christ and ourselves.</p> |
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| Passage Begins | |

| Scripture: | |
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| <p>Hebrews 9:1–10 (NASB95): 1 Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.</p> <p>2 For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place.</p> <p>3 Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies,</p> <p>4 having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron’s rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant;</p> <p>5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.</p> <p>6 Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship,</p> <p>7 but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.</p> <p>8 The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing,</p> <p>9 which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,</p> <p>10 since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.</p> | <p>We have seen that in chapter 7 the priesthood of Christ was the focus. In chapter 8 we saw Christ as the priest king and His ministering work on behalf of us and God.</p> <p>— The author of Hebrews now focuses on the tabernacle and the work that the priests do in the midst of the tabernacle.</p> <p>— — So, one of the major problems with the Israelites is they missed the types and significance of things right in front of them.</p> <p>— — — They missed the value and meaning of things that were there to prepare them for the things to come.</p> <p>— — — — This is what many of these things that our author is pointing out, the types and significance of the things that he is pointing out.</p> <p>— — — — — Our author has revealed to us how Christ is greater than the Old Testament saints, angels, priest, sacrifices, temple, the process of sacrifice, and now He is greater than the types and symbols in the holy places of the tabernacle or temple.</p> |

| Scripture: | |
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| | <p>The reason the author is pointing out all of these things is so that he can help us and the Israelites understand what the old covenant was, what the old temple/ tabernacle was, what the old priests were, what the old law was, and what all these things are for.</p> <p>—The best way to understand what the author is pointing out to us about Christ and comparing Him with all of these things is that these things are like scaffolding built around a piece of new construction.</p> <p>— —The old things were scaffolding that was used to build the new.</p> <p>— — —The scaffold was needed until the work was complete but once the work is complete, it is no longer needed. It gives way to the structure that was supposed to be there.</p> <p>— — — —This is what these old things are; they are for the construction of the finished product.</p> <p>— — — — —The finished project is not the scaffold but the finished product is a new covenant in Christ’s blood, a lasting covenant, a permanent covenant.</p> |
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| | <p>As verse 1 tells us there were regulations on the worship in the earthly sanctuary.</p> <p>—God had required certain duties to be performed.</p> <p>— —Israel was God’s people and He wanted them to be separate from the pagan worshipers that were all around them.</p> <p>— — —So God instructed them in the ways He wanted them to worship.</p> <p>— — — —If they did not follow theses regulations there would consequences.</p> <p>— — — — —READ: Leviticus 10:1–2 (NASB95): 1 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. 2 And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.</p> |
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| Scripture: | |
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| | <p>The tabernacle/temple was the center of everything for the Israelite nation.</p> <p>—Worship, social, political, business, and more were all happening at the tabernacle/temple daily.</p> <p>— —But as our author points out this is an earthly sanctuary.</p> <p>— — —Albert Mohler wrote, “Because the tabernacle was so central to the old covenant, Israel was intensely focused on what happened inside it. The new covenant, however, shifts our focus away from the tabernacle.”</p> <p>— — — —With the new covenant there is not a central location where worship must happen but in fact worship can happen anywhere under the new covenant.</p> <p>— — — — —Mohler continues, “Since the Spirit unites us to Christ by faith, Christians now worship the Father ‘in Spirit and in truth,’ not in a tabernacle.”</p> <p>— — — — — —READ: John 4:24 (NASB95): 24 “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”</p> |
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| Scripture: | |
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| | <p>The new center of worship is not a place, but it is Christ Jesus.</p> <p>—He is where worship is done.</p> <p>— — See, Christ is in contrast to the worldly and earthly sanctuary not because the worldly or earthly sanctuary was bad; but the tabernacle/temple was a physical place here in this world.</p> <p>— — — Christ has, through the new covenant, brought a spiritual worship: one without walls and boundaries.</p> <p>— — — — We see that the tabernacle/temple was made here in this world out of worldly things.</p> <p>— — — — — <u>READ: Hebrews 9:24 (NASB95): 24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;</u></p> <p>— — — — — But Christ made this world so worship is greater than a place in this world.</p> <p>— — — — — — This is why Arthur Pink wrote, “Thus, on the one hand, he (the author) acknowledges the service of the Levitical priests as ‘divine,’ yet to pave the way for his further proof that Christ is a Minister of the heavenly sanctuary, he points out that the tabernacle of Judaism was but a ‘worldly’ one.”</p> |
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| Scripture: | |
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| <p>2 For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place.</p> | <p>So, now our passage begins to give us an account of things in the holy place and the Holy of Holies.</p> <p>—The first thing described in verse 2 is the lampstand.</p> <p>— —It is interesting how everything points us to Christ in the word of God because it is about Him.</p> <p>— — —But as we are the temple of God, we need to see how the things presented here are about us as well.</p> <p>— — —<u>READ: 1 Corinthians 3:16 (NASB95): 16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?</u></p> <p>— — —<u>READ: 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NASB95): 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.</u></p> <p>— — — —So let’s get started with Christ.</p> <p>— — — — —Jesus said this about lampstands: <u>READ: Luke 8:16 (NASB95): 16 “Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light.</u></p> <p>— — — — — — —And Jesus is the light that needs to be shining so that all may see Him: <u>READ: John 8:12 (NASB95): 12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” READ: John 1:4–5 (NASB95): 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.</u></p> |
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| Scripture: | |
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| | <p>As the temple of God we are also to shine the light of Christ to a lost and dying world.</p> <p>—READ: Matthew 5:14–16 (NASB95): 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.</p> <p>—READ: Ephesians 5:7–10 (NASB95): 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.</p> <p>—READ: 1 John 1:5–7 (NASB95): 5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.</p> <p>— — Are you letting your light shine to the world? Are you walking as a child of the light? Are you walking in the light as Christ is in the light?</p> <p>— — — There are 3 reasons to do the work that we should be doing as the temple of God: 1. Shine the light to the world, 2. Live pleasing to the Lord, 3. Fellowship with God and cleansing from sin.</p> |
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| Scripture: | |
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| 2 For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place. | <p>The next piece in the tabernacle/temple that our passage mentions is the table.</p> <p>— The table in the old times was a place of close fellowship.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: 1 Corinthians 1:9 (NASB95):</u> 9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: Psalm 34:8 (NASB95):</u> 8 O taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!</p> <p>— — — We too should be in fellowship with God and each other: <u>READ: Hebrews 10:23–25 (NASB95):</u> 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.</p> <p>— — — <u>READ: Philippians 3:8–11 (NASB95):</u> More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.</p> |
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| Scripture: | |
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| | <p>Next, we have the sacred bread. Yes this bread represented things of the past like the tribes of Israel but we can also see them pointing to Christ as well.</p> <p>— This bread was called the bread of faces because it was facing the Holy of Holies. It was facing God, or God’s presence, all the time.</p> <p>— — Jesus is the bread of life that is never away from the presence of God: READ: John 6:35 (NASB95): 35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.</p> <p>— — READ: John 6:51 (NASB95): 51 “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”</p> <p>— — — We need to be in the presence of God as often as we can: READ: John 15:5 (NASB95): 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.</p> <p>— — — READ: James 4:8 (NASB95): 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.</p> |
| | <p>So, what is our take away? What is our practical application? How do we apply this to our lives?</p> <p>— We are called to be different ... and how are we supposed to be different? We are to be like Christ, and pointing people to Christ.</p> <p>— — So, do you reflect Christ or the world (there is no other option/there is no in between)? Are you pointing people to Christ?</p> <p>— — — Are you missing the value and meaning of things that God is revealing to you through His word (you have to be reading it), through times of fellowship with Him (you have to be drawing near Him), through other believers (you have to be spending time with other believers), and through the circumstances God puts you in (you have to be looking for God in every day life)?</p> |
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