

# A Ministry That Remains

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>So last week we talked about the different furnishings that were used in the tabernacle.</p> <p>—We then compared those furnishings of the old temple to the new temple, us, and asked the question: are we useful or are we useless.</p> <p>— —We then focused on the spirit behind our work for God. Are we doing work for God with all of ourselves, or are we doing it begrudgingly, half hearted, or not at all?</p> <p>— — —Then we saw that the priest used these furnishings twice a day in the service or worship of God.</p> <p>— — — —We then looked into our worship of God; how often were we worshiping God? Our frequency reveals our depth of our relationship with God.</p> <p>— — — — —We then moved to talking about sin and how we need to come to God in repentance, submit to God through Jesus, and return to faith in Him.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>Today we will discover how there is a greater glory in the new way and in the new covenant.</p> <p>—We will also talk about the ministry of Christ and how it will remain.</p> <p>—We will talk about the presence of God.</p> <p>—And, we will talk about the veils that prevent us from entering into God’s presence.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p><b>Hebrews 9:1–10 (NASB95):</b> 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><u>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,</u></p> <p><u>9 which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,</u></p> <p><u>10 since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.</u></p>	<p>So we have looked at the furnishings in the temple and the work of the priests in the temple ... and that those works were on going .</p> <p>—Part of that work was entering into the place where God’s presence dwelt only once a year.</p> <p>—- Humanity was not able to be in the presence of the Holy God but once a year.</p> <p>— — — The repetition of the sacrifices that were made, revealed to us that they were not lasting sacrifices ... but temporary.</p> <p>— — — — So with the exclusion of humanity from the presence of God, and from the continuous nature of the sacrifices, we can understand that these things were not a final solution.</p> <p>— — — — — Albert Mohler wrote, “As long as there was a curtain between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place, the people were not fully in the presence of God. They could not draw near to God with confidence. Thus, the veil between the Most Holy Place and the Holy Place indicated incompleteness and an inability to approach God.”</p> <p>— — — — — Author W. Pink wrote, “Such a state of affairs could not be the ultimate and ideal, and therefore must be set aside before that which was perfect could be introduced.”</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Verse 8 reveals to us that the Holy Spirit was in control of who entered the Holiest place where God’s presence was. The Holy Spirit is still in charge of the way into the presence of God.</p> <p>—Pink wrote, “The Holy Spirit has charge of the way into the Holies—both while that way is not yet manifest and when it is opened up. He alone had the knowledge and the power to reveal this mystery....The Holy Spirit alone can reveal, in the heart, what the way means, both where it is not yet made manifest and where it is. He can work in man deep conviction that he does, or doesn’t not know the true nearness of God in his own experience.”</p> <p>—So, when the time has come for the high priest to enter through the veil, it was the Holy Spirit that allowed that priest to enter without dying.</p> <p>— — This word “signifying” could also mean: to make something known, making evident what was unknown before, to make plain, or to bring to light.</p> <p>— — — The Holy Spirit did not make known the way to the presence of God to the Old Testament believers.</p> <p>— — — — The word “way” could mean: a thoroughfare, road, highway, street, path, route, or way of life.</p> <p>— — — — — So as we see the way, the path to the presence of God was not opened and so the way of life of constant access to the presence of God was not opened.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Why was this access to the presence of God denied?</p> <p>— Well, that question is answered as well, right here in verse 8.</p> <p>— — “while the outer tabernacle (earthly sanctuary) is still standing.” So, access to the presence of God was shut off ... until the earthly sanctuary was destroyed.</p> <p>— — — The view of the Old Testament temple was good for a time but as we talked about before, it was only temporary and needed to give way to the New Testament temple.</p> <p>— — — — So, as that Old Testament temple stood after Christ and also later, after it had fallen, people still held the view that the Old Testament temple (earthly sanctuary) was the way to God but the way to the presence of God was not opened.</p> <p>— — — — — When we get stuck on the old view of things or we get stuck on the old self then we take a stand against God.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Continuance in standing in the old ways is open rebellion against God.</p> <p>— It is entering into a fight with God, an uprising against God.</p> <p>— — <b><u>READ: Psalm 2:2–3 (NASB95):</u></b> 2 The kings of the earth <u>take their stand</u> And the rulers take counsel together Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 “Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!”</p> <p>— — <b><u>READ: Genesis 3:6 (NASB95):</u></b> 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.</p> <p>— — <b><u>READ: Judges 2:11–13 (NASB95):</u></b> 11 Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals, 12 and they forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the Lord to anger. 13 So they forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtaroth.</p> <p>— — — Instead of taking a stand against God with His enemies and embracing our old way of life, we need to take a stand with God in our new way to be human.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Will you take your stand with God?</p> <p>— <b>READ: 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NASB95): 13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.</b></p> <p>— — Stand firm in the faith, not in traditions, not in preferences, desires, or old ways.</p> <p>— — — <b>READ: Ephesians 6:11–13 (NASB95): 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.</b></p> <p>— — — — Our only hope in this life is God. The only way that we can stand firm is through God.</p> <p>— — — — — God equips us to fight with the truth, with imputed righteousness, with the gospel which brings peace, faith that can fight off the devil's attacks, and the Word of God to build and mature all of these things as Christ perfects our salvation.</p> <p>— — — — — — <b>READ: Galatians 5:1 (NASB95): 1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.</b></p> <p>— — — — — — — You're going to take a stand one way or another. Are you standing for God or for everything else?</p> <p>— — — — — — — Standing for God opens the way to the presence of the God of the universe. Standing for anything else is rebellion against the God of the universe.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, picking back up with our passage; the way to the presence of God was closed as long as the old way was still standing.</p> <p>— But God.....<b>READ: Ephesians 2:4–9 (NASB95):</b> 4 <b>But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.</b></p> <p>— — God sent Jesus to be the savior of the world and to open the way to God.</p> <p>— — — To establish the the new tabernacle!!!</p> <p>— — — — <b>READ: Hebrews 8:1–2 (NASB95):</b> 1 <b>Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.</b></p> <p>— — — — — <b>READ: Hebrews 9:11–12 (NASB95):</b> 11 <b>But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.</b></p> <p>— — — — — — — So we have confidence to enter into the Most Holy Place through Christ: <b>READ: Hebrews 10:19–20 (NASB95):</b> 19 <b>Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,</b></p>

Scripture:	
<p><u>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,</u> <u>9 which is a symbol for the present time.</u> <u>Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,</u> <u>10 since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.</u></p>	<p>Verse 9 tells us that this first tabernacle, or outer tabernacle, is a symbol for the present time.</p> <p>— This is a contrast with the true tabernacle; this word “symbol” is where we get the word parable. So, the first temple or tabernacle is a parable for us to learn from.</p> <p>— — In this “present time” we should see that the first way of doing things has given way to a new way, the old temple has given way to the perfect temple, the old priests have given way to the once for all time High Priest King, the old sacrifices have given way to the once for all time Sacrifice, and the list goes on and on.</p> <p>— — — In this “present time” we also see that the acts of worship, the washings, and the regulations were all external; regulations for the body.</p> <p>— — — — But Christ has brought worship, washing, and regulations of the internal issue; the heart.</p> <p>— — — — — Pink wrote, “The apostle’s design in verses 9,10 is to show that, notwithstanding the outward excellency and glory of the tabernacle-system (through Divine appointment), yet, in the will and wisdom of God, that system was only designed to continue for a season, and that the time of its expiation(ex-pee-A-tion—making amends) had now arrived.”</p>



Scripture:	
	<p>The gifts and sacrifices that God requires is not that of goats and bulls but of a body, a flesh, and a transformed mind.</p> <p>— <b>READ: Romans 12:1–2 (NASB95):</b> 1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.</p> <p>— — The former gifts and sacrifices that were offered were not capable of making the conscience perfect.</p> <p>— — — But as verse 14 tells us: <b>READ: Hebrews 9:14 (NASB95):</b> 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?</p> <p>— — — — Jesus’ blood is able to cleanse your conscience from dead works.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, what is our practical application? How do we live this out?</p> <p>—Well, there was glory in the old covenant but there is greater glory in the new covenant.</p> <p>— — <b><u>READ: 2 Corinthians 3:9 &amp; 11(NASB95): 9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. 11 For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.</u></b></p> <p>— — — If we turn to the ministry of righteousness, the ministry that remains; Christ Jesus; The veil will be taken away and we will be in the presence of God. <b><u>READ: 2 Corinthians 3:16 (NASB95): 16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.</u></b></p> <p>—Also, we looked at the different rooms of the old temple and how one is separate from the presence of God and the other is in the presence of God.</p> <p>— — Well, many believers never get into the inner sanctuary to a more complete nearness to God.</p> <p>— — — Pink wrote, “They have, in the outer court, seen the altar and received the pardon of sin; they have entered upon the service of God; they seek to do His will, but the joy of His presence as their abiding portion they know not. And very often, they do not know that there is a better life, that there is an entering within the veil, a real dwelling in the secret of God’s presence; they need the Holy Spirit to signify to them, to work in them.”</p> <p>— — — — Maybe that is you .... Maybe you need to enter into the Holy place and be freed from veils of this world and behold the glory of God.</p> <p>— — — — — <b><u>READ: 2 Corinthians 3:17–18 (NASB95): 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty(Freedom). 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.</u></b></p> <p>— — — — — Enter the presence of God veiless; have nothing between you and Him that hinders your beholding the glory of the Lord.</p>

Scripture:	
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