

THE CONTINUAL BURNT OFFERING  
Exodus 29:38-46; Numbers 28:3-8

Intro: I am turning aside from our study of the book of James because the Lord has been burdening my heart my heart more and more about one particular thing concerning all of you.

Please turn to Exodus 29, verses 38 to 46.

Those of us who have been going through the Pentateuch, the five books of Moses, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, have found that they contain many important personal and practical lessons which apply to our daily lives.

Much of this has to do with the Tabernacle -- the place which God had chosen for Himself to dwell right in the midst of the camp of Israel!

Everything that these books contain is important. All of it is the Word of God.

But after looking at it all, it seems that nothing that the Lord gave to them was more important than His instructions to them concerning the daily, continual burnt offering.

In considering this passage, let me ask and seek to answer five questions:

- 1) How does it apply to us?
- 2) To whom did it apply then?
- 3) What did it mean?
- 4) What were the promised results?
- 5) How important was it?

I. HOW DOES IT APPLY TO US?

Obviously it does not mean that we are to offer a lamb each morning -- along with a meal offering and a drink offering. These sacrifices were set aside when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross.

No, that is not the meaning for us.

But when we come to such passages in the Old Testament we come to what we call types, pictures, patterns, illustrations which do apply to our lives.

This passage had to do with the daily living of the people of God in the Old Testament, AND THE OBVIOUS MEANING FOR ANY CHILD OF GOD WHO READS THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE TODAY IS THAT IT HAS TO DO WITH HIS DAILY LIFE AS WELL.

How they began each day, and how they ended each day was ob-

viously very important to God.

And it is still very important to Him.

So this is a passage which goes beyond what we are able to do on Sunday, or on Tuesday, or on Wednesday. It has to do with every day.

## II. TO WHOM DID IT APPLY THEN?

A reading of Exodus 29 and Numbers 28 will indicate that it applied to:

- 1) Moses.
- 2) Aaron and the priests.
- 3) The whole congregation of Israel.

And so the answer is simply this: It applied to all.

The same is true now. This is a passage for:

- 1) Parents and for children.
- 2) Young people and for older people.
- 3) Men and for women.
- 4) Pastors and for their people.

It is for all of us who know the Lord!

## III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

We must begin by recognizing that the sacrifices of the Old Testament pointed to CHRIST! This is evident from many passages in the NT. Cf. John 1:29; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19, and many others.

The burnt offering is described in detail in Lev. 1.

Here we have really three sacrifices in one:

- 1) The burnt offering.
- 2) A modified meal offering.
- 3) The drink offering.

All of them have to do with Christ -- the first is the main one; the second and third pointing out details of our Lord's Person and His Work which ~~were~~ to be kept in the forefront of their thoughts -- and the same is true for us.

Obviously we do not re-sacrifice Christ, but our minds and hearts are to be directed toward that event which took place almost 2,000 years ago. Note what Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 2:2, "For I determined not to know anything among you . . ."

But to take up the details, we can say that as the continual burnt offering applies to us, we have the following very important lessons for us to observe each day:

- A. Since the only place we can learn the truth about Christ is in the Word of God, it means that we must begin and end each day with the Word of God.
- B. Secondly, the most important thing to do each morning and each night is to get our eyes on the Lord.

Cf. Psa. 16:8; quoted by Peter in Acts 2:25. This is undoubtedly the key to David's life -- and it is what the burnt offering, morning and night, teaches us.

- C. But more specifically, we are to think about the Lord in two ways:
  1. Who He is -- His Person, absolute Deity and perfect humanity, indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
  2. What He did -- not as a sacrifice for our sins primarily (although that is involved) -- but what He did in offering Himself to God.

The continual burnt offering not only reminds us of the death of Christ, but that His death speaks of His total, His absolute surrender to God.

Note how all of this is brought out in the three parts of the continual burnt offering:

- 1) The lamb.
- 2) The meal and the oil.
- 3) The wine.

- D. But there is one other thing: the identification of the offerer with the offering -- laying the hands on the head of the lamb.

This meant two things:

1. That the one making the offering recognized that his only acceptance with God was through the lamb -- just as ours is with Christ.
2. That the lamb represented the fact that the one making the offering was giving himself to the Lord -- every day and every night! It is a daily recognition that we are "not our own" (1 Cor. 6:19).

May I ask you two questions at this point:

- 1) Have you been meeting with the Lord like this?
- 2) Is this what your devotional time means to you?

If not, then this is where we need to begin -- today!

But now notice an equally wonderful part about the continual burnt offering:

#### IV. WHAT WERE (and are) THE PROMISED RESULTS?

There are seven:

- A. The Lord would meet with them. How amazing!
- B. The Lord would speak with them -- always through the Word.
- C. The Lord would sanctify them. There can be no holiness of life without daily fellowship with the Lord.
- D. The Lord would prepare them for service -- "to minister unto Me."
- E. The Lord would dwell with them.
- F. The Lord would be their God -- and who can exhaust the meaning of this expression -- God, Who is always more than enough for any and every need that we might have!
- G. Assurance: "And they shall know . . ."

Did you ever notice how our assurance leaves us when we begin to neglect the Word and the Lord?

From all of this it would seem that nothing would need to be said on this last point, but since the Lord emphasizes it in His Word, let me emphasize it:

#### V. HOW IMPORTANT WAS IT -- AND IS IT NOW?

Please turn to Numbers 28 and 29.

SIXTEEN TIMES in these two chapters the Lord tells His people that NO OTHER SACRIFICE WAS EVER TO CAUSE THEM TO FAIL TO OFFER THE CONTINUAL BURNT OFFERING. I do not know of any such emphasis anywhere else in Scripture!

Is it this important to you?

Concl: We are living in very needy days -- terribly wicked days! We are not going to see the Lord's blessing until we get down to business with the Lord ourselves. AND THAT MEANS THAT WE BEGIN AND END EVERY DAY WITH THE LORD, ALLOWING NOTHING TO STAND IN THE WAY. When we do, then we will find to be true what the Psalmist wrote in Psa. 119:97, "Oh, how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." Ours is a daily walk, and that comes down to how each day starts, and how it ends.