

Bethel

Prayer Meeting Addresses

Number 51 Relying Entirely on Christ

Reading: Leviticus 1. 1-9

1 And the Lord called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the Lord, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock.

3 If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord.

4 And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

5 And he shall kill the bullock before the Lord: and the priests, Aaron's sons,

shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

6 And he shall flay the burnt offering, and cut it into his pieces.

7 And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire upon the altar, and lay the wood in order upon the fire:

8 And the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat, in order upon the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar:

9 But his inwards and his legs shall he wash in water: and the priest shall burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the Lord.

Address

We read the Book of Leviticus in the light of the Epistle to the Hebrews. Leviticus is Hebrews prefigured; Hebrews is Leviticus fulfilled. Now the great point here is this sinner coming to the tabernacle. He is burdened. He is concerned. He seeks a right relationship with God. He wants to be forgiven. And he realises that there is only one way, and that is the blood of the Lamb. So he brings this lamb and he sees it slain, its blood shed, and then he puts his hand on the head of the offering.

And beloved friends, that is what faith is: resting on Christ, leaning on Christ. You see, Christ is the Lamb of God, the sacrifice for sin. At Calvary He

was slain, He shed His precious blood and died. We know that; we believe it. But like this Israelite, it is personal. And the great point is to be a believer, a true believer on the Son of God. What is a believer? One who has faith. O it is vital that we have faith, real faith, living faith, God-given faith. The Word of God explains faith, illustrates faith in a few ways. One is looking to Christ. Another is coming to Him, coming to Christ. So we might go on. But one especially is leaning on Christ, depending on Christ.

And so this is my burden, my exercise this evening. I believe we have many here who possess the fear of God and are truly concerned. It is your chief concern – your sins, your souls and eternity, but you have never truly found that resting place in Christ and the peace that comes from it, that rest which remains in Christ for the people of God. Now at our prayer meeting tonight, may it be our prayer for ourselves and may it be our prayer for one another, that we might each in all our need see there is only one ground of dependence, only one ground of hope, and it is for sinners and sinners are welcome. And may we be enabled by faith to venture and lay our hand on the Lamb of God, the appointed Sacrifice.

“Upon a life I did not live,
Upon a death I did not die,
Another’s life, Another’s death,
I rest my whole eternity.”

Now that is faith. It may be weak, it may be trembling, but it will get you to heaven. But not if you depend on anything or anyone else, or even a mixture, part Christ and part yourself. This Israelite saw the dying lamb. He saw its blood shed. He saw it as his only hope, and he laid his hand upon the head of the sacrifice. He laid all the weight of his immortal soul there, as if he said, This is my hope; this is my resting place; I have no other.

“Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.”

And we are told there are two great blessings flow to him. One is acceptance with a holy God and the other is atonement for his sin – two inestimable blessings, none greater. “It shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.” Now the atonement was actually made when Jesus died, when He cried, “It is finished,” but we want that personal interest and so we venture, and we would lay our hands in complete dependence, the weight of our

souls and the weight of our sins, on the head of a dying Saviour. But to be accepted in Christ, accepted by a holy God, accepted for Jesus sake, and to see the atonement made for us personally.

This is a beautiful verse: “He shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering.” And,

“My faith would lay her hand
On that dear head of Thine;
While like a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.”

“And it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.” Now this is faith and this is faith’s resting place. May you longing, seeking, burdened souls know it and find it. It is the religion that takes a sinner to heaven. No sinner is rejected here.

“Compelled I am on Christ alone to hang,
And plead that blood by which the church is freed.”

*This address was given at Bethel Chapel, Luton, by Mr. B. A. Ramsbottom,
on Monday, 29th September, 2008*

