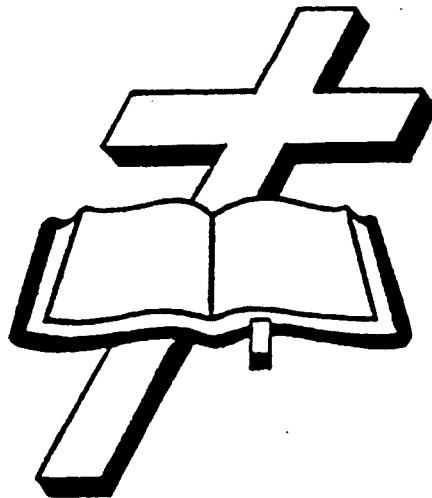


TRANSACTIONING WITH THE LORD

(How The Altar Is A Place Of Ministry)
Hebrews 13:10-16



THE ALTAR IS A PLACE OF:

- ◆ Thanksgiving
- ◆ Provision
- ◆ Reconciliation
- ◆ Victory
- ◆ Wisdom
- ◆ Peace
- ◆ Jesus

“We have an altar” (Hebrews 13:10)

Bill Kirk

“THE ALTAR OF THE LORD”

Text: Hebrews 13:10-16

Subject: “The Place Of Divine Transactions”

Introduction

Fact: The word “Altar” comes from the Latin, Hebrew and Greek words (Altus, Ara, Mizbeah and Thusiasterion) **Which means:** ♦ High ♦ Elevated and ♦ Place of sacrifice

Fact: In the Old Testament Tabernacle, two altars were erected:

#1. The altar of burnt offering (Brazen Altar)

- ♦ It was made of acacia wood overlaid with brass.
- ♦ Blood was sprinkled here by the priests.
- ♦ According to Leviticus 6:13, the fire on this altar was to never go out.

#2. The altar of incense (Golden Altar)

- ♦ This altar was placed just before the throne of Jehovah (Ark of the Covenant) in the Tabernacle.
- ♦ It was symbolic of worship and prayer ascending upward to God.

(The Typology Of The Two Altars)

#1. The altar of burnt offering is a type of the cross (the place where our whole burnt offering offered Himself without spot unto God. (Hebrews 9:14)

#2. The altar of incense is a type of Christ (our Intercessor), through whom our prayers and worship ascend to God. (Hebrews 7:25; 13:15)

(Isn't It Interesting)

- ♦ That between Genesis 8:20 and Revelation 16:7, the altar is mentioned 430 times in the Bible.

Question: But what happens at the altar?

Question: What Divine transactions occur there?

Question: What should I expect at an altar with the Lord?

I. The Altar Is A Place Of Thanksgiving

“And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savour” (Genesis 8:20,21)

Fact: Noah has just exited the ark for dry ground after 411 days on board the ship.

Fact: He now celebrates the mercy of God upon him during the flood.

Question: What was the first mention of the altar in history for?

Answer: It was to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving for God's mercy extended to him.

Question: What is mercy?

Answer: It is God not giving us what we all deserve which is judgment for sin.

Question: How did the Lord respond to Noah's gratefulness?

Answer: “The Lord smelled a sweet savour” (or)

- ♦ Was aware of,
- ♦ Accepted,
- ♦ Approved of Noah's sacrifice.

I Learn Two Things Here:

#1. God **takes notice** when I lock-in with Him at the altar, (and)

#2. Whenever I am blessed (and grateful for God's mercy) the act of **thanksgiving** is always in order.

II. The Altar Is A Place Of Provision

“And the Lord appeared unto Abraham...and there he builded an altar unto the Lord” (Genesis 12:7,8)

“Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first; and there Abraham called on the name of the Lord” (Genesis 13:4)

“And Abraham bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar” (Genesis 22:9)

Fact: Abraham’s altar was a continual place of prayer, communion, fellowship and provision.

Fact: Over and over he affirmed in his heart his relationship with God.

(So Much So)

- ◆ That Abraham was willing to give up Isaac on the altar.
- ◆ He was willing to give up whatever God requested.
- ◆ He was willing to sacrifice (and discovered something that speaks to us all).

#1...That his altar of sacrifice was the place where God provided a ram in Isaac’s place.

#2...That his altar of prayer and devotion was the place of Supernatural intervention.

#3...That his altar of surrender was the place of Divine provision (JEHOVAH-JIREH)

(What A Discovery Here)

- ◆ That obedience is always crowned with God’s **reward**.
- ◆ That obedience always teaches us God’s **faithfulness**.
- ◆ That obedience always leads us to greater Christian **growth**.

III. The Altar Is A Place Of Reconciliation

“And Jacob erected there an altar and called it ELOHEISRAEL” (Genesis 33:20)

Fact: In Genesis 27:41, Esau hated Jacob and said he was going to kill him.

Fact: Anger, jealousy, envy and bitterness was personified (all because Jacob had stolen his brothers birthright)

(But Now In Genesis 33)

- ◆ The two brothers (who were enemies) embrace. (v. 4).
- ◆ The two weep, kiss and offer help to each other.
- ◆ The two depart; Esau goes to Seir and Jacob goes to Shalem. (Vs. 16-18)
- ◆ Jacob then builds an altar after reconciling with Esau and receiving his forgiveness.

(I Discover Here)

The altar is a place of reconciliation and forgiveness

#1. The place where I **receive** it (that’s easy)

#2. The place where I **extend** it (to those who have hurt me)

Remember

- ◆ Unforgiveness is the **poison** we drink while we wait for the other person to **die**.

IV. The Altar Is A Place Of Spiritual Victory

“And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi (which means) The Lord is my banner and defense” (Exodus 17:15)

Fact: Moses found himself in a fierce spiritual conflict.

Fact: Joshua was in war against the Amalekites. (V. 8)

Fact: Moses instructed Joshua to go fight (while Moses, Aaron and Hur went to prayer, Vs 10,12)

(Notice The Strategy)

“And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed...and Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the sword” (Vs. 11,13)

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Moses knew where his strength came from.
- ◆ And God wants us to know the same lesson.

Question: Why was the altar built after the victory?

Answer: To remind you and me that our help comes from above (and that our battles are not with the flesh and blood).

Why This Altar? To Reveal...

- #1. That the powers of darkness are **defeated** in prayer.
- #2. That the altar of intercession is our **best** spiritual plan.
- #3. That the secret place with God **precedes** our public victories with man.
- #4. That prostration before the **Lord** spares us from prostration before the enemy.

V. The Altar Is A Place Of Wisdom

“And Samuel returned to Ramah where he judged Israel, and there he built an altar unto the Lord”
(I Samuel 7:17)

Fact: Samuel returned home in Ramah, six miles from Jerusalem.

Fact: Samuel would judge Israel and be consulted in matters of spiritual importance.

Fact: Samuel would need wisdom from above.

I Discover Here

- ◆ That before I open my mouth to speak to men, I better open my heart to listen to God.

(It Is At The Altar Of Prayer With God)

- #1. Where I receive **wisdom** from outside of myself. (James 1:5)
- #2. Where I find God's **perspective** on matters. (Psalm 121:1,2)
- #3. Where I **quiet** my heart before God. (Psalm 46:10)
- #4. Where I **commit** my needs unto the Lord. (Psalm 37:5)
- #5. Where I express my **dependence** upon God. (John 15:5)
- #6. Where I gain insights to **minister** to people. (James 4:8)
- #7. Where I **obtain** what God wants to share with me. (Philippians 4:19)

VI. The Altar Is A Place Of Peace

“And the Lord said unto Gideon, peace be unto thee; fear not, thou shalt not die. Then Gideon built an altar unto the Lord and called it Jehovah-Shalom (which means) the Lord is my peace”
(Judges 6:23,24)

Fact: Gideon had just been called by God to deliver Israel from the Midianites.

(Notice Gideon's Response)

In verse 13, “God has forsaken us; look at all of our problems”

In verse 15, “I'm the poorest and the least qualified”

In verse 17, “Could you show me a sign Lord?”

Question: What does Gideon do?

Answer: He builds an altar when he hears these words from God:

“Peace be unto you, be not afraid” (V. 23)

(It Still Works Today)

- ◆ God brings peace to us at an altar of prayer when we are facing the seemingly impossible **mountains**.
- ◆ God brings perspective to us when we see Him bigger than what ever we must **encounter**.

VII. The Altar Is A Place Of A Person

"We have an altar..." (Hebrews 13:10)

Question: Who is our altar, what is our altar and where is our altar in this New Testament age?

Answer: The New-Covenant Christians altar is Jesus!

- ◆ On the day of atonement, the sin offering was taken outside the camp to be burned completely. (Leviticus 16:27) ◆ Jesus has now fulfilled this in Himself:

"Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12)

(In Other Words)

- #1. Jesus suffered and died outside the gate of Jerusalem.
- #2. The gate refers to the place where He was put to death.

Question: How does a real "Altar Christian" respond to the sacrifice of Jesus?

Question: How do we respond to the great privilege of being forgiven by God?

4 Qualities Of The Believer

(Who is grateful for their New Testament Altar)

- #1. We live not ashamed to bear His **reproach**. (V. 13)
 - ◆ Instead of complain, we are honored to bear the reproach of the cross (and all that goes with it).
- #2. We live continually for the **world** to come. (V. 14)
 - ◆ We refuse to place our affections on things that we know will fade and pass away.
- #3. We refuse to keep silent in **praise** to God. (v. 15)
 - ◆ We love (from our heart and lips) to express thanks unto the Lord in worship.
- #4. We love to **share** our blessings. (V. 16)
 - ◆ We purpose to live unselfishly; giving with joy and gladness.

Conclusion

- ◆ As Noah "Thanked God" for His mercy,
- ◆ As Abraham surrendered all to God,
- ◆ As Jacob was reconciled to Esau,
- ◆ As Moses won the battle in prayer,
- ◆ As Samuel received wisdom from above,
- ◆ As Gideon found peace beyond measure,

(So You And I)

- ◆ Can now come to Jesus (our altar) and discover the same and more!!!

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor

It Is The Only Way

"For He (Jesus) satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness" (Psalm 107:9)