

The Iniquity Of The Holy Things Exodus 28 Verse 38

Ex 28:36 "And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD. 37 And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre; upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be. 38 And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD."

The definition of signet is *a signature ring, a seal, or to make an end*. The miter is the crown that was made for Aaron, the High Priest, to wear. This plate of pure gold, with the engraving, was attached to the miter with a blue ribbon, and was to be worn upon the forehead of Aaron.

"that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts;" What is the iniquity of the holy things, which the Israelites should hallow in their holy gifts? This would be representative of the things offered to God, which might have imperfections in them. It would also represent that the way, or the intent, with which they were offered might be flawed. Thus, we see the picture; Aaron, the High Priest, wearing the "**Holiness To The Lord**" emblem on his forehead, as the means of removal of any iniquity in the offerings, or the way they were offered, that both may be made acceptable to God in heaven.

Now, let us make some self-application to the church, and our participation in worship service to God. To accomplish this task, we shall ask some question that lead us in self-examination.

- When you are preparing to go to church services; Why are you going? Is it for your own joy? Is it for your own fulfillment? Is it out of the feelings of obligation? Is it what you are supposed to do; to be accepted in the church family, or put on a front to the world? All these type things are iniquities in our gift of sacrifice to God.
- When you are present in the church and singing; What is your motive? Is it to please your own self? Is it to be heard of people? Is it for your own glory? Is it just to satisfy your own wishes and longings? All these types of things are iniquities in our worship of God services.
- When you go to God in prayer, what are you asking for; what is your motive or intent? Is it to seek forgiveness of some known sin that is causing your conscience to seek relief, not truly desiring to be forgiven by God; just seeking to ease your conscience? Is it to present you list of wants? Is it just a show, in the flesh, to the church and the world? All these types of things are iniquities in our gifts to God.
- In attendance of the preaching services, what is your motivation? Is it for the satisfying of your own hunger or thirst? Is it to present a picture of goodness to the church and world? Are you desirous that the preaching of the gospel will be to the salvation of sinners? Are you desirous that God will use his ministers to bring glory and honor to his name? Are you looking for justification of yourself for ungodly actions? These are a few of the things that are iniquitous in our service to God. And on and on the questions go.
- Well preacher; What about those who at one time professed, and then turned away and are not walking in faithful church fellowship? What about those who have not made that public profession of faith and joined the organized church? Obviously, they are not walking in full fellowship with the body, which puts them in the place of not bringing their sacrifices to God at all. So, there is obviously iniquity in their lives that requires the "**Holiness To The Lord**."

Sadly, I must confess; I have been guilty of every one of the questions asked at some time. However, I hope and trust that as God has revealed to me my iniquities, I have repented and turned from them to God.

From these questions, we understand; if the intent of our actions is for self, then it is iniquitous. An easy way, to discern if your sacrifices and actions are pure, is to ask yourself the question, am I seeking glory for God or myself. If the intent is to bring glory and honor, or to focus attention upon, God and Christ, then it is a pure motive and acceptable to God. If our intent is to follow the commandments of God in humble obedience to his will, then it is an acceptable action of worship to God.

All these thoughts bring us back to the high priest and "**Holiness To The Lord**." We begin to understand; without the purity of Jesus Christ, our High Priest, nothing we can do in worship to God is without iniquity. It helps us to understand; only, by the finished work of Christ, are we able to present ourselves before the Lord, with any hope of acceptance.

Why would this signet be upon the forehead of the high priest? For starters, we need to look to Jesus, our High Priest, seeing him as our "**Holiness To The Lord**." We need Christ to present our prayers and petitions to God the Father, who standing before God, face to face, will be seen as "**Holiness To The Lord**."

We need the "**Holiness To The Lord**" to be able to attend church service for the right reason. We need the purging of our hearts and minds, by the Holy Spirit presence, to be enabled to sing praise to God and Christ in spirit and truth. We need to be made acceptable, in the sight of God the Father, before we can approach him in prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Just as Aaron was high priest to Israel and bore the iniquities, of the gifts, and rituals, of worship of God; so is Jesus Christ unto us.

These thoughts have helped me see plainly; nothing I can do is good or acceptable to God the Father, if it is not done through God the Son. Without the Holy Spirit presence, Christ in us, we cannot even attend church in the right way. A reminder to us of the truth we find in **Joh 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."** Thank you, Lord Jesus, for being our "**Holiness To The Lord**," and for enabling us to worship God "**in Spirit and in Truth**." Hallelujah! Amen!