

The Laver Exodus Chapter 30 Verses 17-21

Ex 30:17 ¶ "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 18 Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. 19 For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: 20 When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: 21 So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations."

In these verses we have the instructions for making the laver of brass, wherein, each priest was to wash their hands and feet, "**that they die not**" when they entered the tabernacle of the congregation or approached unto the altar to do sacrifice. We are reminded that in the new birth, we are made kings and priests unto God. Wherefore, we should always acknowledge that we are made clean by the washing of the waters of regeneration, as seen in: **Tit 3:5-7; 5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."** If we attempt to live the life of a child of God, in discipleship to Christ, believing that by our own works we shall be justified, we shall be seen, in the eyes of God, as the dead men that we are.

This washing of the hands and feet is symbolic of what our works are to be like. What do you mean? Our hands are representative of our works, as we do our work with our hands. We are to, with washed hands, do that which God has enjoined upon us to do. Washing the hands would be representative of doing all as unto the Lord and doing nothing for self-glory.

Washing the feet is a picture of our lives. We must, with clean feet, walk in the paths of righteousness and demonstrate how to live the life of a Child of God, in accordance with the word of God, before the church and the world at large. The washing, of the hands and feet, reminds us that we cannot attain to the perfection of the walk of Christ Jesus, who led a sinless life; however, it will remind us that this is the state of perfection we are to strive for. Since the washing was repeated every time they entered the tabernacle of the congregation, and every time they approached the altar of sacrifice, we see the picture of confessing our sins to God and claiming the redemption of Jesus Christ, as our own, before we attempt to do anything in his name.

It reminds us: when we enter a worship service, we first go to the laver and wash our hands and feet. We do this by emptying our hearts and minds of ungodliness and worldliness, confessing we are sinners. We should be praying, in reverent fear, that God will accept our confessions, and prayers for forgiveness, as we approach the altar, of the sacrifice of our praises to God. Remember what God tells us in: **1Co 11:26-31; 26 "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. 27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged."** The priest under the law were approaching the altar of sacrifice washed physically to meet the demands of the law ordinance. We, also, approach the altar of sacrifice, the cross of Christ, and the Lord's Supper in remembrance of the accomplished work of Jesus Christ.

This is a picture of why at Mars Hill Church, when we prepare to observe the Lord's Supper, all those who serve wash their hands before we begin the ordinance. This includes both the ministers and the deacons, who are, in effect, acting as priest approaching the altar of sacrifice.

This is why, before we do anything that is considered worship to God, whether it be assembling together, or private prayer, we are to wash our hearts and minds, by purging ourselves as seen in: **2Ti 2:21; 20 "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 ¶ Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."**

We get another New Testament picture of the washing the hands and feet at the laver in: *Jas 4:8; 5 "Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? 6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."*

Thinking of this scripture and the humbleness required, we see the reason a priest, under the sacrificial law, would be in fear of death, if they did not follow the ordinance of God as required. Don't you believe that when a priest went to the altar and offered sacrifices and did not die, that there was great rejoicing in their hearts. The same is true for us when we assemble to worship God. What do you mean? If we enter worship services, whether it be the singing worship service, the public prayer service, or the preaching service, and we have not washed our hands and feet, the service will be without meaning to us, and we will have no rejoicing in the salvation of God. We will be as the dead corpse at a funeral service, who gets nothing from the service. However, if we enter these services washed and ready to worship God; we will leave the altar, of the sacrifice of our praises to God, with hearts that are lifted up with joy because we were accepted in the Beloved.

When we leave a worship service here on earth: we should be as those who we read of in: *Re 19:1-9; 1 "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. 3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. 4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. 5 ¶ And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."*

To which we say: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for washing us in the waters of the word of regeneration; and for inhabiting our bodies with your Holy Spirit presence, that we might worship you in spirit and truth now in time. Thank you, King Jesus, for our laver, which is the King James bible which is the true word of God. Our laver is filled with waters for washing with which we can purge our hearts and minds and be made ready to praise and worship our God. Any time we are meeting with God's people, let us go by the way of the laver and wash ourselves, and thereby be prepared to receive one another with the joy of the Lord. Any time we are assembling to worship our God and Saviour, let us go to our laver first, washing our hearts and minds, and prepare to worship the Holy and Matchless name of our Redeemer, having received the promise of being accepted in the Beloved. Hallelujah! Amen!