

Friday, February 10, 2023 ▫ Read Exodus 30:17–21

Questions from the Scripture text: How does v17 introduce a slight change in subject? What are they to make (v18)? Out of what? With what base? For what purpose? To put where? And to put what in it? Who will use it (v19)? What, specifically, they will wash? Before what two activities, especially must they wash (v20)? Lest what happen? What, specifically must they wash (v21)? Lest what happen? How long is this requirement in effect?

What do we learn from a bronze basin on a pedestal outside the tabernacle? Exodus 30:17–21 looks forward to the p.m. sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **even consecrated, veteran priests were still continually soiling themselves with sin, so that we need a sinless Priest, Whose cleansing is effective for us once and for all.**

Here we have another new piece of furniture, probably because it was neither needed for the ordination of the priesthood nor part of the regular priestly service. Rather, the bronze basin on a bronze base (v18) is necessary for washing before each time a priest came to engage in his priestly service—whether outside the tabernacle at the bronze altar, or inside the tabernacle at the lampstand, the table, or the altar of incense.

Sinful priests among a sinful people. There is a repetition of the washing of both hands and feet here in v19 and again in v21. Specifically, just as the feet are unclean with the dust of the earth, so they are also spiritually unclean because these priests ways are sinful before God, and they walk among an unclean people. But it's not just their feet. Their hands must be washed because the dirt that they are always accumulating parallels the sin that they are constantly committing in the things that they do.

In a culture that has become obsessive about the need for regular hand-washing, the spiritual lesson should not be lost upon us. We inevitably accumulate much sin and guilt through our ways, our actions, and even any others among whom we walk, when we are responsible for them and representatives for them. We are in need of continual repentance from our sin, and continual faith in Jesus Christ, Who cleanses us of it.

Who are in constant danger of death. A second thing that is emphasized by repetition is the mercy of this instruction, and the necessity of it. "Lest they die" (v20). "Lest thy die" (v21). The burnt offering is not making them safe. The tabernacle is not making them safe. Their being from the correct lineage is not making them safe. All of their previous service unto God does not make them safe. Every time they go in, they need to wash again. And it must not be thought that the water is making them safe, or it would not have had to be repeated. How constant were the reminders that they deserved death and Hell!

And we have those reminders as well. But, praise God, it comes as reminder by way of remembrance: every time we come to God through Christ, every time we say "in Jesus's Name," every time we ask for forgiveness, every time we come to the table, every time we remember that we are baptized or observe another's baptism... we are remembering not only that we deserve death and Hell, but that death and Hell have been paid. We are safe in Jesus!

Until this priesthood ends. This was a "statute forever to them —to him and his descendants throughout their generations" (v21). But there would come a time when the forever-priesthood like Melchizedek's would replace the Levitical priesthood by a Man from the tribe of Judah (cf. Heb 7:13–14). Our Lord Jesus is not like these priests, however. Even walking among sinners, He never took a sinful step or went in a sinful direction. His hands and head and heart were clean of sin His whole life long.

Now that our resurrected High Priest has ascended into heaven itself, believers in Him have been washed and consecrated in Jesus, by the Spirit (1Cor 6:11). This consecration to enter the holy of holies (Heb 10:19–20, cf. 1Pet 3:22) is signified in the sprinkling clean of our consciences (Heb 10:22b) that comes when the washing of baptism (Heb 6:19–20, 10:22c, cf. 1Pet 3:21) is an affirming seal upon faith (Heb 10:22a)

What are some of the reminders that you deserve death and Hell? What have you done recently that deserved this? How can you be safe before God? How has He sprinkled your heart clean? What sign of testimony does He place upon church members to affirm this reality to the whole church?

Sample prayer: Father, we thank You that You have given Your Son to wash us in His blood, and Your Spirit to apply Him and His cleansing blood to us by faith. Grant that we would hate sin, and that we would be confident of our forgiveness from You. We ask for this forgiveness through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP51A "God, Be Merciful to Me" or TPH435 "Not What My Hands Have Done"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Exodus 30 verses 17 through 21. These are God's words. Then you always spoke to Moses saying, you saw also make a labor of bronze. Or that's base. Also a bronze for washing.

You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. Do you shall put water in it? For Aaron and his son so wash their hands and their feet. In water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of meeting or When they come near to the altar, to minister to burn an offering made by fire to yahweh.

They shall wash that with water. Unless they die. So, they shall wash their hands and their feet. Lest they die? Then it shall be a statue to forever to them. To him and his descendants. Throughout their generations. So, for the reading of god's inspired and inherent word,

We have another. Piece of furniture here. That is given outside the ordinary sequence. I say another because you remember at the beginning of this chapter, we had the altar of incense. Which was connected to the regular priestly. Service. And Uh, we discussed Some reasons why it may have appeared where it is.

Um, in this case, One probable reason for the bronze basin, on a pedestal. It's just a bronze bowl. On. On a stand. One of the reasons that it appears here is that it's actually not part of the priestly service. It's something that is Necessary to use. So that they don't die when doing the bracelet service.

So it's more of a prerequisite. Something that they were supposed to do before they actually started. Their priestly service whenever they come to do it. And what it reminds us is that these are still sinful priests among the sinful people Even though they have gone through their coordination, even though they have all of these at turning sacrifices, They are still sinners.

And whenever they come back to the tabernacle, or back to The. Altar outside, the tabernacle. Before they do anything with the altar or before they go into the tabernacle, they have to wash. They've got two problems. One problem is they've been sitting ever since they left. So they come back and they wash, it's not so much that dirt.

Is a problem. It's that the dirt reminds them of the dirtiness, the filthiness. Of sin just as dirt should remind us. Of the dirtiness and the filthiness of sin. We should be with sin. Like, i was Uh, a few weeks ago. And i apologize for the grossness of the illustration, but It is not as gross as sin.

Um, I was about to use the facilities at the gym. And just before i started to use it, i noticed out of the corner of my eye. And the entire bottom of the bowl was covered. With what looked like diarrhea, i don't know how it could have gotten there without someone like spreading it.

But it was horrible. And i immediately jumped up and read away, like i was running for my life. Our sin is filthy. We should see it like, Diarrhea. We should not want to touch it. We should not want to come near it. And we should know and see how necessary it is.

To have it removed from us, and far from us. In order to come to the worship of god. Now obviously water can't do that. Which is why we must have christ to do that. Which is why we come. Through faith in jesus. Atoned for and declared cleaning him and independence upon his holy spirit.

That we would do. As little as possible. That our sin would be restrained as much as possible. As we come. To the worship of god. Israel. Israel's priest, Aaron. And his sons, We're sinful priests. Among the sinful people. We inevitably accumulate much sin and much guilt, which In between times of worship, which is one of the reasons why Um it's actually it's good to wash your hands but that's not the point.

It's one of the reasons why we come. And, Every time we come to worship, god, we do what at the beginning. We ask for forgiveness, we thank him for his goodness. We confess what we have been like since the last time we were worship, we were worshipping we embraced Him and we embrace christ in the gospel.

And ask for the help of his holy spirit. This is what the lord's taught his people. By the washing the e-commanded. The priests of course are not the priests, the pharisees of course. Had accumulated a tradition of lots of different washings. And they were very offended. When the disciples didn't wash their hands before they ate.

Now, if we're talking about viral pathology or whatever, that's bacterial microbial, pathology That's fine. You could be offended on that count, but they were offended on a religious account. And the lord jesus. Made the point that it's what's in the man that defiles him. Not what's under his fingernails.

That's what the lord is teaching israel here with this bronze base and on a pedestalism. Mustn't come to passages like this and say see how important hand and foot washing is We should become the hand and foot washing, people of the world? Well too late. The Muslims are the hand and foot washing, people of the world.

They have an entire weird washing ritual that they do multiple times a day. Because they don't understand that. It's what's inside the man? That makes him unclean. And that the only answer is christ and his spirit So, sinful priests, among the sinful people who are in danger of death, The washing of the hands and feet was emphasized.

Uh, twice, he talks about washing hands and feet twice. It talks about washing with water.

Excuse me. But also twice, first in verse 20, and then in verse 21, it talks about less. It says, lest they die. Last, they die. The lord is reminding us. That we deserve death and hell. But it's actually a miracle. Every time we worship god and don't end up incinerate.

It is one of the reasons why it's So self-unaware, so god unaware. To worship the lord casually. Those who have grace according to Hebrews chapter 12. Worship the lord with reverence and awe. Let us have grace so that we may worship him with reverence and all So, we may worship god acceptably with reverence and all For our god, as a consuming.

Fire. But the command and the reason for the command concerning the bronze labor reminds israel of that very thing. Lest they die. Lest they die? So, sinful priests, among the sinful people who are in constant danger. Of death and hell and in constant enjoyment of a miracle that they don't die and they don't go to hell.

We should constantly, we should enjoy it right now. Here, we are a sinful family. We've done lots of sinning. It's the last time we worshiped as a family, And we are gathered to the lord, and he's addressing us from his word, and he listens to us as we call upon his name, and he helps us sing his word.

And have it, dwell richly in us and fills us with his spirit. And we have gathered unto god and instead of dying and being consumed by his fire. We have been blessed acknowledged as children instructed as children helped by his spirit. Renewed in our Our laying hold of our union with the lord jesus christ.

And so this reminder that they are sinful priests among the sinful people Who deserve who are in constant danger? Of death, unless you die unless you die and in constant enjoyment of a miracle. In which god has made us safe in jesus. It has its end, doesn't it? It's goal.

And in this case, because it belongs to the priesthood of of Aaron and not the priesthood of christ as an expiration date. It will be a statute forever to them. Okay. Well how long does forever? To him and his descendants throughout their generations. There's coming a change in priesthood.

There is the priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek. That ends levitical priesthood. According to heat, according to the book of hebrews. There's a priesthood of the lord jesus coming. It doesn't need washings. The man from the tribe of judah, even when he walked among sinners, he didn't get polluted by the sinners.

Those who get joined to him by faith, they don't bring him down, he brings them up. We receive his cleanliness cleanliness. We received his being clean. He does

not. Get contaminated by our sinfulness. He took our sin on himself. Once for all, In the event of the cross. But his righteous.

And clean and he makes us righteous and cleaning himself. When we come before god, we don't come covered with. The moral and Culpable guilt diarrhea of our sin. We come perfectly clean. In the holiness and righteousness of the lord jesus christ. Our resurrected high priest has ascended into heaven itself.

And we have been washed and consecrated in him by his spirit. Not by water on earth. So yes, it's good to wash our hands often. But that is not what makes us clean for the worship of god. We are consecrated even so much as to enter the holy of holies.

With our bodies, washed with pure water. And the washing of baptism. But the water is not what sprinkles the conscience. It's the lord jesus. And his blood. Applied to us, by his spirit, to me as bored out. Are consciences. Are sprinkled clean. Where water cannot touch. Yeah, there's no amount of water pressure that you can turn a pressure washer up to.

For it to be able to reach your conscience. And you have the lord has given us outward washing still. The one washing for all time. Tremendous, that we are cleaning him to sprinkle our conscience as clean. Every time we reflect upon the reality to which, Our baptism points. So, we're grateful for The bronze labor and the lord, giving it to israel to point them to christ.

And the lord's giving us this passage on it today. Point us to christ. To make us to know that we are sinful. People among the sinful people that we're in, constant danger of that. And hell. But that, every time we come to god and realize that we are not only safe in his presence, And the presence of his holiness.

But welcome and blessed in his presence because we have christ as our priest. And we have come in him. That we may enjoy. The. Cleansing that we have in jesus. And the safety. That we have in jesus. Let's pray.

Our father in heaven. We thank you for According us to christ. For cleansing us in him forgiving, us baptism. As an outward, sign with the washing of water.

Then we pray, lord that you would Grant unto us now to Rejoice in your having cleansed us in him. Help us lord to hate our sin to see it for the filthiness. The offensiveness that it is. To see it for the guilty nets. The worthiness of death. So that it is.

And, And union with christ to put sin to death, the flee from it. And to quickly put it away and be cleansed. Confessing it before you. We thank you that your faithful and just to forgive us, our sins. And to cleanse us. From all unrighteousness. Finish that work. We ask by the work of your spirit.

We ask in jesus name, amen.