

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (March 6) – Exodus 39

Our God is a holy God. That is, He is entirely set apart from sinners. His people are called to be holy. His priests are “Holy to the Lord,” set apart to minister on their behalf in the holy place. There they serve wearing beautiful garments of skilled design. The priest represents the people and also their needs, much as Christ today stands in the holy place on behalf of God’s own. The priestly garments are engraved with stones of remembrance, displaying the names of God’s people before Him. Christ our High Priest stands before the Father representing our names to Him there.

This was all done as God had commanded. God had previously indicated that the garments vesting the priests were intended for “for glory and for beauty.” Although no longer commanded as such for the Church today, the Lord’s people have historically made use of the arts in their worship to reflect something of God’s glory and beauty revealed as they gather. There has always been the music, the sights, the sounds, and even the smells to fill the senses and to fortify faith! The vesting of the pastor for worship in our day might remind God’s people of His glorious presence in His word and worship. The image of the man being clothed and covered in this way reminds us of the righteousness of Jesus Christ that covers all our sin.

Tuesday (March 7) – Exodus 40

The holy place is set apart for the holy God. The Tabernacle is erected by God’s people and at His directive. As heaven and earth are full of His glory, so too is the place He has set apart for Himself and for His worship. The book of Hebrews reminds us that all of these things that God has prescribed are copies of the heavenly things to come (see Hebrews 8:5). The Tabernacle is filled with His glory, and so we are reminded of the Lord Jesus Christ, the very Tabernacle of God, revealing God’s glory to us all.

If we worship in a casual or informal way, this indicates a lack of recognition of the presence of our Lord among us. We are called as holy people, holy to the Lord, clothed in Christ by faith! And so we worship with reverence to reflect the beauty and glory of Christ and His word, and to set our minds one again on things above, that we might respond in faith, giving glory to God.

Wednesday (March 8) – Leviticus 1, 2

Holy worship is God’s plan for the Levitical priesthood and all His people. Because they are holy people, there is to be holy worship. To that end the priests of God exist to provide sacrifice for the sins of all. This is necessary because God wants His people to enter His presence, but sinners cannot be in the presence of God. Therefore, in mercy, God provides a way to cleanse His people’s sin. God is gracious and a God of good order. It would seem there is a principle at work here, that orderly and intentionally reverent worship is something that pleases God. What does this mean for our worship today? Faithful and reverent worship toward our God is an expression of faith and a response to His service of grace toward us!

Thursday (March 9) – Leviticus 3, 4

Holy sacrifice is essential for God's people to enter into His presence. The peace offering was unique in that it celebrated the peace that existed between God and His people. It was an offering of thanksgiving as well, and all the people shared in eating of this sacrificial meal. We are reminded of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper by which we share in the fruits of our Lord's sacrifice, eating and drinking in His presence by way of saving faith.

The writer to the Hebrews reminds us that under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins (see Hebrews 9:22). This shedding of blood atones for the sins committed both intentionally and unintentionally. When they become aware of sin, both priests and people alike are to come in their guilt before God. So we too confess to God all of our sins and iniquities with which we have ever offended Him. Yes, holy sacrifice is essential, and Christ, the true, eternal sacrifice of God has been offered for us all.

Friday (March 10) – Leviticus 5

The word atonement is found a number of times in this chapter. The atonement is reconciliation made through the sacrifice that is offered. The atonement God requires He also provides. It is given to cover the sins of the people before their holy God. The faithful are called to come and to confess before Him. They do this as an act of their worship while they stand before the altar in the hearing of the priest. This truth still holds today. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God's word in the mouth of the pastor absolves as He loosens the chains of sin's grip upon His people.

Saturday (March 11) – Leviticus 6, 7

Laws of the offerings for sin are outlined in these chapters. These are all fulfilled in Christ's offering for sin once for all on our behalf. The Lord's people respond to the sacrifice for their sin in repentance and faith in order to receive God's gifts so graciously offered. In this sense the lives of God's people are offered in response to His offering for them!

The priests and their sons are allowed to eat a portion of most of the sacrifices offered. This was how God provided for His ministers in the Old Testament. The same principle applies today, and God calls His people to physically provide for their pastors.

Sunday (March 12) – Leviticus 8

God's priests are set apart for their service to Him. They are also to serve in a place set apart. All is consecrated, set apart for God. As a royal priesthood, God's people are set apart for service in response to His offering on their behalf. As the Lord's sacrificial offerings are received by Him as a pleasing aroma, so we offer ourselves as living sacrifices holy and acceptable to our God (see Romans 12:1). We offer ourselves for Him who first offered Himself. This is our service of worship as a joyful response to God who first serves us!