

# Three Important Facts

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Study Given by W.D. Frazee—May 13,

To many people heaven is unreal. It is shadowy. But heaven is far more real than anything in this world. We have a real Savior who is carrying on a real work in a real sanctuary. He is making a solution of the problems of this world. The great problem of this world is sin. God is solving the sin problem. In all God's work for man He has a part for you and me. He is waiting for our participation. Many people do not understand this, and they wonder why this and that doesn't happen. But you and I can understand how to share with Jesus.

Sin is the real problem back of all other problems. How did God solve the sin problem? He solved it by presenting the plan of salvation. For several thousand years the plan of salvation centered around the sacrifice of the lamb or other animals. The sacrificial substitute became the vehicle that carried away sin.

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” John 1:29.

Abel brought his lamb and by faith was made righteous through the offering of the lamb that represented Jesus. But when people came to Mount Sinai on their way from Egypt to Canaan God unfolded further wonderful things in the plan of salvation. He gave them not only a knowledge of His law which they had lost sight of in Egypt. He gave them an understanding of the heavenly sanctuary such as they had no idea of. God called Moses up into the mountain and gave him the plans for a little building that would present in three dimensions a miniature model of the heavenly sanctuary. Why? So we could understand how God deals with the sin problem.

The apostle makes clear that what Moses saw in the mount was the heavenly sanctuary, the building where God lives and where Christ carries on His work for our salvation. Moses was told to make a miniature and be sure to make it like the pattern. So when we study the earthly sanctuary services we are in shadowy outlines watching the movements of Jesus, our great High Priest in the sanctuary above. The whole book of Leviticus, and many things in Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy have to do with the services in the sanctuary. I want to focus on three important facts related to three parts of the sanctuary.

The first is in the court. The brazen altar is where the sacrifices were slain and offered. This represents the cross of Christ where He gave His life for us. Of all the many offerings that were sacrificed, every one of them pointed forward to Calvary. Every lamb that was sacrificed represented Jesus, the Lamb of God. So the first fact is that there must be a substitute who dies in behalf of the sinner.

The second fact is that there must be a priest who will go into the sanctuary and present the blood before the veil. Why?

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission” Hebrews 9:22.

But the blood must be presented where the law is. The law is in the sanctuary.

“For the wages of sin is death” Romans 6:23.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” Romans 5:12.

We all deserve to die. We are all destined to die. But we not only have a Lamb who died for us, we have a Priest who lives for us and presents that offering within the sanctuary above.

In Leviticus chapters four, five, and six you will notice that this particular presentation within the sanctuary in the first apartment had to do with the forgiveness of sin. What does it mean to forgive? It means to cover. I am so glad that the sins of all of us, if we have given them to Jesus, are covered. Covered with what? Blood. Blood represents life (Leviticus 17:11). Does the life of Jesus cover my poor life with all its faults and mistakes? That is good coverage.

This is about as far as many people understand the plan of salvation. There are millions of people who know that Jesus died upon the cross, and there are many who know that if they confess their sins they are forgiven. But in the sanctuary we find evidence that there is something more that Jesus wants to do besides dying for us and forgiving our sins. He wants to so change our hearts that He can bring us at last to the place where the sins can be blotted out forever, and never be repeated.

This service focused at the end of the year in the most holy place. This service on the Day of Atonement is given us in Leviticus 16. The blood that was shed in the court was carried through the holy place and sprinkled above the law on the mercy seat. We will focus on the work in the most holy place, because that is where Jesus is now. I have thought about it many times. If I love someone I am interested in where they are and what they are doing. Sometimes when I am away on a trip my wife and I get together on the telephone. What are we interested in? What I am doing and what she is doing. We are always interested in the past and the future, but there is something wonderful about the present. And the more you love someone the more you are interested in what they are doing now.

God's plan for the church is to be very interested with the subject of what Jesus is doing now, and where He is now. Where is He? He is in the most holy place. He isn't on the cross. He left that two thousand years ago. Then He went to heaven to the sanctuary. For eighteen hundred years He ministered in the first apartment. But in harmony and fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy of Daniel 8:14, at the

end of the twenty-three hundred days, in 1844, He entered the most holy place for the cleansing of the sanctuary. This involves the work of the investigative judgment.

I would like to have you think particularly of the work of cleansing the sanctuary. Cleansing it from sin. How could there be any sin in heaven that would need to be cleansed? When we study the ancient service there were two ways that sin went into the sanctuary. It went in through the blood of the victim, sprinkled on the altar and before the veil. And sin went into the sanctuary in the person of the priest, who, eating the flesh of the sacrifice, bore those sins before God. In other words, sin must be carried by someone until it is finished.

If I carry my own sins then I am a lost man. But if I am not going to carry my sin they must be transferred to Jesus. He must not only die for them on the cross. He must carry them in the sanctuary until they are disposed of. Many people have not reckoned with the cost of this. It is the terrible cost that Jesus paid in Gethsemane and Calvary. But that infinite suffering was a revelation of our dull senses of the pain that sin has brought to the heart of God from the moment it started until it is finally finished. This is the great message of the sanctuary.

Wherever you find the priest, you find him dealing with this. If he is out at the altar he is taking the blood. If he is in the sanctuary he is sprinkling the blood on the altar. If he is in the most holy place he is sprinkling the blood on the mercy seat. What is blood? It is life, but it is life poured out. You can't imagine life poured out that way without pain. Sin has always brought pain to God. Why? Because it is the thing that brought sorrow to His children, separation of His children from Him. So sin has brought pain to the heart of God all the way through. It is bringing pain to the heart of God until it is over.

Someone says, Isn't it over as soon as we confess our sins?

In a sense, yes. The good news is that just as soon as you and I give our sins to God He takes them and covers them with the blood, and we are counted just as if we had never sinned. But there is something about the human heart that is so undependable.

The work of the most holy place can never be finished until our sins are not only covered, but blotted out. That means that you and I must reach the place by His grace where it is safe to close this emergency hospital dealing with the sin problems. How can that be done? By the shedding of blood. The blood is the wonderful power of the blood of Jesus and the wonderful power of His intercession.

Why does the blood have power? It is not some magic. It is not some mystery. The blood tells us something of the pain that sin brings to the heart of God. The more we look at the cross and the more we look at Jesus in the sanctuary holding up His wounded hand, the more we see how much He loves us. If we love Him we don't want to disappoint Him. Not only do we see how much He loves us, but how bad sin is. Who killed Jesus? Our sins did. Sin is so bad that it dragged the Creator from His throne, hanged Him from the cross, and tortured Him. That is how bad sin is.

What sin and Satan did to Christ sin and Satan will do to us. Do you want to meet the awful separation from God that Christ suffered in Gethsemane and on Calvary? Do you want to meet the tortures of the Devil? Christ has gone through it to help us see what we are dealing with. We are dealing with a terrible foe. So God wants us to think of the pain that sin brings to Jesus, and let that pain reach our hearts so we will quite it.

The reason sin hurts us and we go on with it is that we don't feel it. When the surgeon works on us he usually gives us an anesthetic. Why? Because few of us would let anyone cut on us if we feel the pain. Surgery has its place. But sin is something that is bad. Sin has an anesthetic. The man who smokes until he finally gets lung cancer doesn't feel the pain every time he smokes. It takes years. The man who dies in a heart attack does not feel the pain the minute he started doing the things that brought the heart attack. He went through years without it. So God is seeking to help you and me to understand the pain of sin not by getting lung cancer or a heart attack, but by seeing what sin did to Jesus on the cross. That is what the blood is telling us. Sin is a terrible thing. It literally broke His heart. The separation that sin makes broke His heart. All that is the message of the blood, whether shed in the court, sprinkled in the holy place, or sprinkled on the mercy seat.

Have you ever did something that disappointed someone you love, and when you saw how bad it disappointed them you wish you hadn't done it? If it hurts you enough to see how bad it hurts them, will you do it again?

The message of the sprinkled blood in the holy place is the sorrow for sin after we have fallen. But somewhere we must learn to feel that pain before we are tempted so when we are tested and tried we say, No, no, I couldn't do it again. I cannot drive the nails again. I cannot thrust the spear of pain. I cannot bear to see His grief and agony.

Does sin hurt Jesus today, or did it just hurt Him two thousand years ago?

"If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame" Hebrews 6:6.

If Jesus loved me enough to die for me, He loves me enough to care whether I do right or wrong. Then every sin hurts Jesus with a pain that we can only try to comprehend. Every time a man smokes a cigarette and hurts his body, or gets angry or sins on any point, it hurts Jesus. Our problem is that we are thinking so much about ourselves that if it hurts us bad enough we usually try to quit it. But until it does we think it is not too bad, and we like to do it. The thing that will cure us is seeing what sin has done to Jesus, is doing to Jesus, and every repetition of sin means that His heart is broken again.

This is the lesson of the sanctuary. This is the lesson that God is trying to teach us when He says, Look at Me. I am your Lamb who died on the cross. I am the Priest who ministers that blood at the altar. I am the Priest that ministers that

blood in the most holy place at the mercy seat. I carry those sins on My heart so that you won't have to die. I am your substitute.

Won't it be wonderful when Jesus gets what He wants and has a people who are heart to heart with Him that don't want to sin anymore? Most of us have a sense that we don't want to sin anymore. But if we wait until we feel like quitting sin we have missed the point. The basis of sin is selfishness. The thing God wants to teach you and me is that His love for us is so great that we will want to please Him no matter what it does to us. This is why millions of martyrs went to the stake, and they sang on the way. Why? They knew they were going to burn to death, but that was all right. They would rather burn to death pleasing Jesus than live displeasing Him. That is wonderful.

Can God do that for us? Yes. That is the message of the sanctuary. It is an understanding of the character of God and the nature of sin so we love God not for what He will do to us, but because He cares for us. We are His children, and we don't want to fail Him. We don't want to displease Him.

Think of the hardest temptation you have ever had. Think of the greatest problem you are facing. Put it in the scales, and on the other side put the heart of Jesus, and realize that if you fail you do what to Him? You break His heart. Is it worth it?

This is the answer to the Sabbath problem. Are you having a problem with keeping the Sabbath? It is easy if you get hold of this. You wouldn't want to break God's Sabbath if it meant crucifying Jesus over again. That is what it means, whether we sense it or not. The power to quit breaking God's Sabbath lies in looking at the pain that comes to Jesus' heart when we fail Him. That is where the power lies.

If someone has a problem with an angry temper, it can be solved if we get looking to Jesus. Looking to Jesus dying for us on the cross. Looking to Jesus covering our sins after we have fallen. Looking to Jesus presenting that blood in the most holy place to blot out sin and get rid of it. Oh, that God may help you and me to be so conscious of what sin does to Him that when we are tempted to get angry we say, No, no. I cannot do the thing that will break my Savior's heart.

I am so glad that God is in the business of saving people. But every one of these three steps involves human participation. Jesus died for me, but until I come to Calvary and see that He died for me, I am still a lost man. My salvation involves not merely the fact that Jesus died for me, but I must come and confess my sins. While it is true that my sins were put upon Jesus two thousand years ago I still can't get the benefit of that unless I give up the sin.

The Priest is praying for me and bearing my sins in the sanctuary. But back there when the priest was offering the incense and sprinkling the blood the people were gathered in the morning and evening worship service in the court. That means that while Jesus died for us and lives for us as our Priest that He wants you and me to share with Him in giving up our sins and praying for ourselves and others. Unless we do that we miss the blessing.

So in the closing work on the Day of Atonement, while the high priest was sprinkling the blood on the mercy seat, what were the people doing? Jesus says, Stop everything and come to the sanctuary. While your priest is in there, follow him by faith. Understand what he is doing, because on this day the priest makes an atonement to cleanse you that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.

God intended that when the hour of His judgment started in 1844, the people who heard and accepted that message would have just one thing on their minds—the finishing of the Gospel work on earth and in heaven; the cleansing of the sanctuary and the blotting out of sins. We have spread out to a lot of things. We have many ideas and philosophies and other things going on now, and we can be in this world for another hundred years and be no closer to heaven. Somehow God must get hold of some people who will say, This one thing I do is to share with Jesus, and do only those things in work and study and every other phase of life that has to do with cleansing the sanctuary on earth and heaven, and putting an end to the sin problem. That is the thing.

Down in Memphis for several days there was a little boy who had a liver transplant. They were trying to solve the problem of that poor little fellow. He finally died the other day. But millions of people were interested in what was going on with him. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were poured out in an endeavor to save that little life.

All over this world there are millions of people in pain and sickness, and the heart of God is sorrowing over it because He loves everyone a million times more than you and I ever loved anyone.

When that little boy died the mother was right there. She was holding his hand and doing everything she could. Where was her interest? In that boy. Of course. When will you and I get that interest in the pain of the heart of Jesus? When will you and I become so absorbed in curing His heart burden that everything else takes second place. This is the answer to doing right and refraining from doing wrong. This is the answer to your life's work. Do only those things that will hasten the coming of Jesus.

When many people think of the coming of Jesus they think, I wish He would come. Then I wouldn't hurt anymore. But somewhere there must come to my heart that the great reason I long for the coming of Jesus is not that I won't hurt anymore, but that He won't hurt anymore. That is the thing. Sin hurts Him.

I think of those sad situations over in Lebanon and other parts of the Middle East. Men are fighting one another. Innocent women and children are suffering as a result. Life is in terror all the time. How the heart of God must bleed over it. How long is it going to go on? It is going to go on all over this planet until someone looks upon the One they have pierced and mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son. It is the broken heart of Jesus that causes us to be sorry for sin. Then we say, Thank God, the One who died for me lives for me.

He is able to keep and save them to the uttermost that do what?

“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them” Hebrews 7:25.

He is able to save them that come. I thank God this is true.

Precious Lord, we thank Thee for the reality of things in heaven. We thank Thee that the One who made us and made the universe thinks enough of each one of us to invest His life and give His life and lay down His life that we might be redeemed. We thank Thee that He was willing to take the pain and guilt and shame of sin upon Himself so we wouldn't have to carry the load to our death. We thank Thee for a view of His love. We are responding.

Help us to hate sin more than we have ever hated it before. Help us to love You more than we have ever loved You as we see Your heart's sorrow in our behalf. And Lord, we are so glad for the wonderful news that we can take away Your sorrow and bring joy to Your heart by letting You know we are with You instead of against You. This is what we want to do.

We are so glad that it is written that if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We claim not only forgiveness but cleansing. We claim not only pardon but deliverance. We claim not only the covering of the past but victory for the future through the blood of Jesus Christ. Help us to spend time day by day that it will become more and more real to us. We thank Thee in Jesus' name. Amen.

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W.D. Frazee Sermons  
P.O. Box 129, Wildwood, GA 30757  
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755  
[www.WDFsermons.org](http://www.WDFsermons.org)  
[support@WDFsermons.org](mailto:support@WDFsermons.org)