

Christ's Way in The Sanctuary 1 of 4

Sermon #0985

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"Thy way oh God is in the Sanctuary" Psalm 77:13.

Where is God's way? [Audience replies 'In the sanctuary'] What will we find in the sanctuary? God's way. Do you want to know God's way? Where will we find it? In the sanctuary, let's look in what do you say?

Now let's turn to John 14:6, we'll find what the way is.

"Jesus saith unto him 'I am the way, the truth and the life'"
John 14:6.

What is the way? Jesus is the way and where did we find God's way is? In the sanctuary, and his way is what? Jesus. Is Jesus in the sanctuary? Well if he isn't friends there's nothing there for us because there's none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Thank God is Jesus is in the sanctuary, he's in it from first to last, from beginning to end all the way through. And tonight I'd like to notice some of the ways in which Christ has served for us and ministered for us from before time began on down through the history of this world and will continue to minister for us on into the future.

Let us turn now to the Gospel of John 1:1-3, what are the first 3 words? In the beginning, where do we find those same 3 words used before? Genesis 1, in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. But now here in John 1:1-3 we read:

"In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made." John 1:1-3.

Here is someone who was with God and was God and we're not left in doubt as to who it was for the 14th verse says:

"The word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, the glories of the only begotten of the father. Full of grace and truth." John 1:14

This is the Son of God Jesus our Savior. Now coming back then to those opening words:

“In the beginning was the word...” John 1:1.

Did Jesus begin when he was manifested here in this earth? Oh know he always was, there was a time when he was not with the eternal father. And he is set forth in these words as being with God and as being the one through whom and by whom all things were made. Paul echoes it Colossians 1:16-17:

“By him were all things created...” Colossians 1:16.

So we see way back at the dawn of history in the very beginning of this world Christ our Savior set forth as creator. Creator, he is the one that made the heavens and the earth. Well he's the one then we're remembering when we keep this holy day as a memorial of creation. Is that right? Alright, he is the creator, Jesus is the creator.

Now let's go a step further, all down the Old Testament times God manifested himself to the human family through Christ. Let's prove that through the scriptures.

“The one that spoke to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, the one that often conversed with Moses. The one that gave messages to Samuel, to David, to Daniel, to Ezekiel and all the prophets was none other than Jesus Christ our Saviour for here it is written of which salvation the prophets have enquired and search diligently who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you. Searching what or what manner of time the spirit of Christ which was in them which signified when it testified before hand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow” 1 Peter 1:10-11.

Notice those words in the 11th verse, who was testifying to and in and through the prophets? The Spirit of Christ, it was the testimony of Christ that Moses wrote out, it was the testimony of Christ that Isaiah wrote down and Jeremiah. It was Christ that was with the Israelites in there wilderness wonderings, you remember Paul tells about it there in 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. How that as they came out of Israel they had that cloud that went with them and the spiritual rock that went with them he says was who? Christ, that's right Jesus is the one.

And now let's go to Nehemiah 9:12-13 and I want you to see something interesting that Jesus did when he was with Israel there in the desert.

“Moreover though leadest them in the day by a cloudy pillar and in the night by a pillar of fire to give them light in the way

wherein they should go, thou camest down also upon Mount Sinai and spakest with them from heaven and gavest them right judgements and true laws and good statutes and commandments.” Nehemiah 9:12-13.

Who was with them in that pillar? Christ.

Who was that? Oh that was Christ that was Christ. It was Christ that gave Moses the instruction about building this sanctuary. It was Christ that there on the mount spoke those Ten Commandments which he later wrote on the stone and gave to Moses to be enshrined in the ark in the most holy place. It was Christ who did all that, Christ in the sanctuary oh yes, he's in the sanctuary for beginning to end, from start to finish.

Now as Christ is the author of the Law and as Christ is the one who spoke though the prophets we see then that the Old Testament often spoken of in summary as the Law and the prophets is the testament of Christ is the Old Testament. We have the New Testament now and it takes the whole, the Old and the New Testament to give us the complete bible right? But we see that the Old testament the Law and the prophet come from Jesus, through Jesus. This is indeed the Law of Christ, the testimony of Christ. And in all this, Jesus was seeking to reveal the father, he was seeking to reveal God's will for that's what the Law is for to reveal the will of God. That's what the prophets wrote was to reveal the will of God. But after 4,000 years in the plans of God the time came for Jesus the one who had spoken through the prophets for these 4,000 years to come himself and become incarnate to take the form of our humanity to be born as a little baby. You remember that we read there in John 1:14 the word, this word that was in the beginning that created all things, the work was made what? Flesh and dwelled among us. And we beheld his glory, the glories of the only begotten of the father. You know it's interesting it says there 'the word was made flesh and dwelt among us' another translation says 'tabernacled among us.'

You see this tabernacle that Moses made was a type of Jesus. Christ said to Moses when he told him about this sanctuary; let Israel make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. And as the sanctuary was the dwelling place where the glory of God was revealed the veil. So in the life of Jesus here on earth divinity was revealed veiled by humanity and why?

Ah friends, if the glory that shown there in the most holy place had in its fullness shown out upon the congregation they would've been destroyed. And if Jesus had come to this world with the glory of heaven they would have been struck dead. You remember when that one angel appeared there on the resurrection morning the Roman guard fell as dead men but Jesus veiled his glory, the word was made flesh and dwelt among us. And we beheld his glory, his glory shining through the veil. The veil of his humanity

could not fully cover or hide that wonderful glory that came with him from heaven. And as in the Law and the prophets he had revealed the fathers will. So in his life and ministry here on earth he revealed the fathers will. He came to show us how to live as he had told us how to live through the 10 commandments, so in his life he showed us how men are to live on earth the life of heaven.

That's why we need both testaments friends, we need every word that preceedeth out of the mouth of God. Remember both of these testaments come from Jesus, in the Old we see his will. In the 10 commandments and in the comments of the prophets, in the New Testament. We see his life living out these wonderful principles. And then we see him continuing those messages through the prophets that followed after.

You know one of the titles of Jesus is that of a prophet. You'll find that in Deuteronomy 18:18, through Moses God said 'I will raise them up a prophet like unto you' and that prophet was Jesus. He is the one to all Israel as to hearken. So Christ is not only creator the one that made all things, he is also the prophet the spokesman for God. He is the word, God's thought made audible. We use words to convey thought from mind to mind Jesus was the word through which God conveyed his thought to the human family, through his speaking and through his living. Oh I'm thankful that he is the truth aren't you? And in his law and in his life we see that truth revealed.

Now the next thing we need is a sacrifice for sins, we wouldn't have needed this if all the world had accepted him always as creator and as the spokesman for God. But our first parents chose to turn from the way that he showed, they turned their backs from God and broke his law and so since sin came in and the wages of sin is death and death had passed upon all men it was necessary (mark the point) that someone should come not merely to show us how to live but to die for our failures to live. And so Jesus is set forth in the sanctuary as the one on whom our sins are placed. To all the human family the message is:

"Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away, bareth away
the sins of the world." John 1:29

Yes, as we see that Lamb consumed upon the altar of sacrifice, as we behold the smoke ascending from that brazen altar, we see in type the suffering Savior burying our sins upon the cross of Calvary. Ah my friends it wasn't enough that he should live for us he must also die for us. And thus any Gospel which sets him forth merely as a great teacher and denies or neglect his atoning death upon the cross, any such Gospel is a false gospel. We need a Savior who dies for us, in this we have in Jesus our Lord. Turn to 1 Peter, oh I love the way Peter put it. Inspired by the Spirit, 1 Peter 2:21-24, the 21st verse it says:

"Christ suffered for us" 1 Peter 2:21.

Then in the 24th verse:

“Who his own self bared our sins in his own body on the tree” 1 Peter 2:24

He carried our sins. So when Jesus went to the cross he was like that lamb on whom sins were placed and died as the result. Is that the reason Jesus died? Oh yes. That’s the only reason friends our sins were put upon him. It was sin that killed him, so as we approach the Cross and see the Lamb of God we see what sin will do to anybody on whom it is placed. If we claim to sin, sin will crush us as it crushed him. But oh thank God he took our sin so that we wouldn’t have to bear that punishment.

Look again now at another text here in Peter:

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold. Through sin we were sold into slavery and money could not redeem us. With the precious blood of Christ as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot” 1 Peter 1:18-19.

You know that word ‘redeemed’ means to buy back. Yes it takes the precious blood of Jesus as of a lamb. So watch how we’ve come so far, we see him first as creator. The one who made all things, next we see him as the revealer of God’s will, the prophet who speaks for God. The incarnate one who lives here on earth, the will of God, the one who shows the way and third we see him as now as the sacrifice for sin the Lamb, the redeemer, the Savior, the substitute, the one who dies for us that we may live for him.

But ah friends this isn’t the end of the story, oh no, no having made this world and having spoken the message of God through the ages and now having come and showed us that way. Having lived as our example and then died as our sacrifice he rises from the grave and ascends to heaven, what for? Ah friends to be our intercessor, our priest, our mediator, our representative in the heavenly sanctuary.

Let’s turn to Hebrews now and notice these wonderful words, Hebrews 8:1-2. This sums all it up Paul says what is it?

“Now the things which we have spoken this is the sum. We have such a high priest who is sat on the right hand of the throne of the majesty in the heavens. A minister in the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man.”

Oh, friends I'm so glad that the telescope of prophecy is focused upon the heavenly sanctuary and if we look in the eyepiece adjusted to our vision we shall see wonderful things that are taking place in those holy place.

The holy place and the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, point is, is Jesus there? Oh yes! That's what Paul says and what's he there for?

"For Christ is not entered in the holy places made with hands which are the figures of the true but into heaven itself now to appear in the presence of God" Hebrews 9:24.

Oh yes! He's there as our priest, our representative, our mediator, our intercessor. He is there ministering for us, as the priest in the ancient sanctuary went *in* to the sanctuary for the people so Jesus has gone into heaven ministering there for us.

And there are two parts to this ministry, as there were two rooms in the ancient sanctuary, the holy place and the most holy place. So there are two parts to Christ's priestly ministry in heaven, he entered upon the first that is the sanctuary for 18,000 years there in the first department he ministered his blood. Let's read about:

"Neither by the blood of goats and calves but by his own blood he entered in one sin to the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us." Hebrews 9:12.

When he entered, he entered with and by virtue of, by means of what? His blood. The priest ministering in the earthly sanctuary must bring blood. As the atonement for sin and so Jesus must have something to offer. Does he have it friends? Thank God thank God.

But going back to the sanctuary no matter how much the blood was shed here in the court unless it was ministered in the sanctuary the atonement could not be completed and so it was necessary that Jesus having lived on earth as our example and died as our sacrifice should ascend to heaven as our intercessor, our great high priest. And there he lives to make intercession for us as Paul says in Hebrew 7:25.

Oh, friends I'm glad he's still on duty for us, what do you say? You know this subject of the sanctuary makes clear something. That's hazy, fuzzy in the minds of many Christians and that is 'why did Jesus leave this world anyway? And what's he been doing since?' Well the answer is very plain in the sanctuary, he didn't leave this world because he had finished his work for us, oh no. He didn't leave this world because he'd come on an errand and gone back to heaven and going on just as before oh no. He went to heaven my friends to finish what he'd started here on earth in our

redemption. He's there for us; he's on duty for us just as much there as he was in Gethsemane and on Calvary. It's all for us friends.

But now there's one more thing, oh there's one more thing and this is wonderful. Let's turn to the book of Revelation and see. Soon friends we're going to see something wonderful. Revelation 14:14, this is future, what we've studied tonight so far is all past and present. But here's something future what is.

"And I looked and behold a white cloud and upon the cloud one sat like unto the son of man having on his head a golden crown and in his hand a sharp sickle" Revelation 14:14.

What's this? Oh this is his coming, his second coming. He was once offered to bare the sins of many. Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time. No longer as the sin barer but as the king and he's coming for the subjects of his kingdom. Are you one of them? God grant it friends. Are they let us think of this five-fold work of Jesus for us. First he's our creator, second he is the word who speaks the will of God and lives the will of God. Third he is our sacrifice, he dies for our sins. Fourth he is our intercessor, our great high priest who first in the holy and then in the most holy carries on the mediatorial work. Which at last presents a group of people in harmony with God's will, his holy law. And then fifth and last he is the coming King, soon there will be voices in heaven saying the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his plight. And he shall reign forever and ever.

Soon from that Sanctuary the word will issue it is done. The one who has born, worn priestly garments for these centuries will lay those aside. He will clothe himself with the raiment of a king. The crown will be set upon his head and he will come surrounded by all the armies of heaven. On his vesture and thigh the name written king of kings and Lord of Lords, now friends he's a wonderful Savior as we were singing a few moments ago. Aren't you thankful for it? And remember it's all for us. Now tomorrow night were going to study some more about this, this is the introduction.

God bless you everyone as you meditate on these things. Now wouldn't like to praise him tonight? Well I can't see how anybody can keep still after thinking of all he has done, is doing and will do for us. It's all for us, Creator, Prophet, Sacrifice, Priest, King, all for us. What is your answer to that wonderful love of Jesus tonight? Just stand and bury your witness as God impresses your heart.

And it took it all didn't it? If he hadn't created this world where would we be? If he hadn't revealed his law, his will. First in speaking and then in living where would we be? And if he hadn't died for us where would we be? And if he weren't ministering and pleading for us in the sanctuary tonight where would we be? You know if he never came for us where would we be?

I thank God for these 5 great services that Jesus has given his life to do for us what do you say?

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