

Sanctuary (Oak Haven 1969) 5 of 10

House of God

#0497

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 1969

In our last study, we were looking in Hebrews, the 10th chapter, verses 19 and 20. We're ready to go on with the 21st verse tonight. We continue studying the sanctuary. Oh, I'm so glad for this book of Hebrews and what the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write to help us find out what's going on in the Heavenly Sanctuary. We'll go back to the 19th verse to get the setting.

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having an High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised)” Hebrews 10:19–23.

As we noted in previous lessons, Jesus wants us with Him where He is. It was for that that He came to this world. It was for that that He went to the cross. It was for that that He rose and ascended to Heaven. All of this was for us, that we might be where He is. This planet is in quarantine because of sin. The only way the quarantine can be lifted is that the sin problem shall be solved—the sin disease cured. God is not going to carry the virus of rebellion all through the universe. He's not going to allow us to carry it. That problem must all be taken care of in this life, in this present world. And yet, the paradox of it is: the cure for sin takes place not just in our hearts but in the Heavenly Sanctuary. It is what Jesus has done and is doing there that makes possible the cure of sin in our hearts.

Oh, my dear friends, let us lift our eyes away from this planet and the moon and the solar system and fix our eyes on the glorious reality of what is going on in Heaven, for that is where the sin problem is solved.

Paul says that we have liberty, or boldness, to enter into the holiest. The priest only could enter the ancient sanctuary. And only the *high* priest could enter the *Most* Holy. But here the children of God, through the blood of Christ, through the provisions of the New Covenant, are invited to enter in. This of course, at the present time, is an entering in by faith. But that makes it no less real, my friends. The things of faith are just as real as things of sight—sometimes much *more* real.

I want to read this statement again, speaking of the work of Jesus since 1844 in the Most Holy Place for God's followers down here in this world:

“They are to understand His work, and to follow Him by faith as He goes in before God. It is in this sense that they are said to go in to the marriage” *Great Controversy*, page 427.

So, even though our feet are walking these paths here on earth, our hearts can be at home with Jesus in the Most Holy Place. Dear friends, if you and I are ever to be with Him there in the flesh, we must first be with Him in spirit. Our minds must be fully with Him, entirely united with Him. This is our privilege. What a shame it would be to disappoint Him.

How do we go in? By the blood of Jesus. Notice there is blood on the brazen altar, blood on the golden altar, blood on the mercy seat. It's a blood-sprinkled way, all the way. It cost the death of Jesus, and it is still involving our Savior in bearing the sins of men until the work is completed, and He presents His people “faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.” (Jude 24)

The other evening, we were studying this expression, “A new and living way which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say His flesh.” We noted that, as the veil concealed the glory in the ancient tabernacle at Mount Sinai, so in Christ, God veiled His glory and came down and dwelt among us—He tabernacle among us. And the eternal glory was brought to men yet veiled, so as not to blind or destroy them. But when Jesus died upon the cross, you remember something happened to that veil. What was it? It was rent in twain. This was at the exact moment when Jesus died, when He died of a broken heart. Yes, He opened up a “new and living way” for us, through the veil. As His heart was torn, His body was broken, that a way of access might be made for us to the very throne of God.

So, with this expensive offering, Paul says to take our privilege seriously and go in.

Now the 21st verse:

“And having an High Priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith”
Hebrews 10:21–22.

Now, this is the language of the Day of Atonement. The work of the high priest on the Day of Atonement was to go in and sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat in full and final atonement for all the sins that had been transferred into the sanctuary through the previous year. But while he was doing that, the people gathered at the sanctuary. So Paul says that, while our High Priest has gone in, let us draw near. How near? Well, as close as we can get. Back then, they came to the court. But Paul says to let us go in with Jesus, to the very Holiest. “Let us draw near.”

I'd like to notice this expression “having an High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near.” Does God have a house? That's what His temple, His sanctuary, is called. God has a house in Heaven, the temple of God in Heaven, that's His dwelling place. And He said to Moses, “Let them make Me a sanctuary” here in this world “that I may dwell among them.” And the high priest was the presiding officer of

that whole temple service. Paul says, “having an High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near.” Who is our High Priest? Jesus. Hebrews 4:14 tells us that. The Great High Priest who has passed into the heavens. Hebrews 8 and 9 repeats it several times. Jesus is our High Priest. But now notice that expression “an High Priest over the house of God.”

Turn over please to 1 Timothy, the third chapter, and the 15th verse. We want to find out more about this expression, “the house of God.” Christ is a High Priest over the house of God. Paul was writing to Timothy, and he was hoping to see him before long. But he says, I’m writing this letter in case I don’t see you right away. There are some things I want you to know.

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” 1 Timothy 3:15.

So, what is the house of God? The church. You know, I’ve thought of that expression used in the Scriptures, I love it in the 23rd Psalm:

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”
Psalm 23:6.

There’s protection there from the dangers outside. There’s food there. You remember in Malachi, he says:

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house” Malachi 3:10.

What is His house? The church. We bring our tithes to the church. There’s meat (spiritual food) in the house—in God’s house. So, as I say, this expression is used many times. The house of God, which is the church of the living God.

Now let’s go back to Hebrews the 10th chapter. Oh, my dear friends. While, by faith, we enter the sanctuary above, through faith, we are to enter God’s house—God’s sanctuary here below, the church of the living God.

I’d like to read to you an expression from the Spirit of Prophecy comments. This is from volume 7:

“The Jewish tabernacle was a type of the Christian church. The church on earth, composed of those who are faithful and loyal to God, is the “true tabernacle,” whereof the Redeemer is the Minister. God, and not man, pitched this tabernacle on a high, elevated platform. This tabernacle is Christ’s body, and from north, south, east, and west, He gathers those who shall help to compose it... A holy tabernacle is built up of those who receive Christ as their personal Savior... Christ is the Minister of the true tabernacle, the High Priest...” *SDA Bible Commentary*, Volume 7, page 931.

Now, this doesn't mean, in any sense, that there is a tabernacle here on earth instead of the one in Heaven. Not at all. The whole book of Hebrews is designed to point us to the Heavenly Sanctuary itself as the place where our faith is directed. That's where Jesus is. There's a real sanctuary there, a real High Priest, there are real angels there, there are real elders there, people from this world, like Enoch and Elijah and Moses and others whose names we don't know. Everything is real up there, nothing imaginary; it's real. But besides that, in addition to it, along with it, there's the sanctuary here on earth, the tabernacle. What is it? The church.

We're told in the Spirit of Prophecy that the church in Heaven and the church on earth, to God, are one. In fact, Paul tells us that in Ephesians, the third chapter.

Speaking of the Father, he says:

"Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named"
Ephesians 3:15.

It's all one family—the church above and the church below.

The Jewish tabernacle was a type of the Christian church. The church on earth is the true tabernacle. This tabernacle is Christ's body. Let's look at that for a minute. Where does that expression come from? It comes from the Bible.

Keep your place in Hebrews 10, and let's go now to Colossians. What does it say Jesus is? He's the head of what?

"He is the head of the body, the church" Colossians 1:18.

So the body is what? The church. Whose body? *Christ's* body. And who is the head? Christ.

Now I want to ask you something: Is there a real close connection between a head and a body? Oh yes, a very close connection. Can you touch the body without the head knowing it? Jesus says:

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these
My brethren, ye have done it unto Me" Matthew 25:40.

Yes, there's a very close connection between the head and the body. I'd like to be practical in this study with you, friends. We've seen now that Jesus has invited us to enter in with Him; He wants us to draw near. We have a High Priest over the house, the church, of God. And we are to enter in with Him. I hear people sometimes talk about the invisible church. Ever heard that? I say this very humbly and sincerely, but I mean it: If anybody finds that expression anywhere in the writings of inspiration, if you would bring it to me, I would appreciate it so much. I don't say it isn't there; I just say I haven't seen it. And until I see a statement that says that, I'd be a little careful about preaching it. Don't you think I ought to? Because my business is to preach the Word. So if I don't know that the Word says that, I ought to hesitate about preaching it, shouldn't I?

Tell me, is that sanctuary in Heaven, is it a real place? Or is it just invisible? It's a real place. Is that sanctuary that Moses made a real building? Could the people see it? Oh, yes. Did they know where to come? Yes, they did. Not only the sanctuary itself, the building was real and definite, but there was a definite organization back then. We studied what happened on the Day of Atonement. When the Day of Atonement closed, every Israelite in that camp was either clean along with the sanctuary—there was a clean sanctuary, a clean congregation, clean people, clean individuals—or else he was cut off. Do you think he knew whether he was cut off or not? He was no longer a member of the commonwealth of Israel unless he was all cleaned up on that day. And oh, my dear friends, all this was in the type. And the great lesson I want us to see as we study this is that Jesus has set His heart on producing and presenting a people that fully reflect His image. And you and I are either going to be cleaned up or cleaned out of God's church, one or the other. Just as sure as can be. Because God is going to have a sanctuary on earth that is cleansed, just as He has a sanctuary in Heaven that's cleansed. Neither one takes the place of the other. But do you think that God can cleanse the sanctuary in Heaven as long as His sanctuary on earth is polluted with sin? Why no. No. It's the sins of the church on earth that pollute that sanctuary up there. Are people in Heaven sinning? Is Enoch sinning? Is Moses losing his temper up there? No, no. That all stopped down here in this world before they ever went there, right?

Well, where does the sanctuary get the sins from which it must be cleansed? It gets them from the church down here on earth. Is that right? Is that what the Bible teaches? Our sins are transferred. When we repent of them, they are covered by the blood and transferred to the Heavenly Sanctuary. You can readily see, then, until God's people here on earth are cleansed, there will continue to be a defiling stream flowing into that sanctuary.

Let me illustrate it this way: Suppose it's Friday afternoon, and mother is getting everything ready for the Sabbath, and she's mopping the floor in the kitchen. Just about the time that it looks like she's going to finish up, in comes one of the children from school with muddy feet and runs across the floor. Then what will mother do? She'll have to mop a bit more, won't she, if she's going to have a clean. About the time she's nearly done with that, in comes Mary, and she's got muddy feet too. How long will mother keep on mopping? She'll have to, as long as people keep tracking in mud. Now I know that's a very simple (and you might say crude) illustration, but it's exactly on the point, my friends.

Paul says:

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having an High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised)” Hebrews 10:19–23.

It's cleansed people who must finally make up the church of the living God.

Now don't misunderstand me. I don't mean that only perfect people can get in the church. Oh, no. Let's go to Ephesians, the fifth chapter. Read some more about this church which is Christ's body. See what Jesus is doing for us.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it" Ephesians 5:25.

What did Jesus love? He loved the church. Now it's true that He loved individuals. Paul says in Galatians 2:20 that Jesus loved me and gave Himself for me. And every one of us can say that personally. But it's also true that He loved what? He loved the church and gave Himself for it. And the church is not just some invisible mass; it isn't just some number known only to God. Oh, no. The church, as Jesus established it was a definite organized group. He put apostles in it at the head, didn't He? He gave them prophets; He gave them evangelists, pastors, and teachers. And as they went out and preached the gospel, they organized churches and ordained elders and teachers. And Jesus, in Matthew 18, plainly told His apostles as He organized them into a church, that if one of your number sins, go and do what? Tell him his fault between thee and him alone. If he doesn't hear you, take one of two more. If he doesn't hear them, tell it unto the church. If he doesn't hear the church, then let him be as a heathen man. I have often wondered, friends, how you would get an invisible church together to tell them that. He's talking about a definitely organized church that can get together in a meeting and listen to something and then take action one way or the other. That's the way we get into the church, and that's the way people get out of the church—by action of the body.

Now don't misunderstand me. I wouldn't, for a minute, leave the impression that just because a person's name is on the church book here, it's on the Lamb's Book of Life up there. Crooks, hypocrites, and devils steal into the church sometimes. You remember there was a man in Samaria by the name of Simon, who was baptized by Philip. But when Peter and John came down from Jerusalem to pray for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost, the hypocrisy of Simon was manifest, and Peter said to him, "Thou hast neither heart nor lot in this matter. Thine heart is not right with God." You remember?

Remember Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Ghost, and they were slain? God may not slay every hypocrite and liar today as He did them. He did it on that occasion to show how He thinks about it, and what is eventually going to happen to every hypocrite and liar that steals into the church.

Reading here in Ephesians 5:

"Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" Ephesians 5:25–26.

Does the church need washing? That's what this says. And Jesus gave His life to accomplish that—"that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."

Tell me, friends. What kind of clothes do you wash? Some people seem to be terribly disappointed if they find any imperfection in the church. It's all right to be disappointed; Christ is disappointed. But my point is: Jesus goes to work to do something about it—to do what? To sanctify and cleanse it. And so, when we come into the church, we just as well recognize that the church is in the process of being washed. The church is going through the laundry. There's ironing that goes on too, as you will see in the 27th verse, "that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." Aren't you glad, friends?

So, when Jesus comes, He's going to find a church that is like Him—all the spots are gone, all the stains removed, and even the wrinkles ironed out. Are you with Him in that? But notice: all this is something that happens to what? To the church. Now suppose we had a great big laundry machine here, and suppose there's all kinds of clothing—handkerchiefs and shirts and overalls—just a great big washer. By the way, do you notice that, in washing, there's usually some agitation? God uses even agitation that we feel bad about to keep things moving and keep things stirring. And not one honest soul will be lost through all the agitation if we'll stay in the suds. And if things are being churned around, that's no sign that we need to jump out of the laundry machine. And if we look out across the tub, the washer, and we see a garment that's very dirty (somebody else of course), that's no sign that we're in the wrong place. The church is going through the laundry. I want to stay in, don't you? Because even if I wasn't quite so dirty as somebody else if I'd get out of the suds and land out here by myself, how would I ever get clean? I want to stay in till every spot is gone, every stain removed. What do you say?

Oh friends, the heart of God is set upon this. I wish I had words to convey the longing heart of God, His purpose in this matter. This is the thing He's set His heart on since eternal ages. Let's turn back to the third chapter of Ephesians, and you'll see something of what I mean.

"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" Ephesians 3:8–11.

Oh, brothers and sisters, I want you to think of what this means. While you and I are looking heavenward to that heavenly sanctuary, while we picture in our imagination that wonderful beauty where deity unveils His glory, where the angels are gathered in millions, and where the saints who have already gone there assist Jesus in that priestly work, while this is going on, it is also true that those heavenly intelligences are looking down at this planet with the deepest interest, watching at what is going on in the church. And God's purpose is that now (don't miss that word "now," it's the fifth word in that 10th verse), "to the intent that now unto the

principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.”

Will you enter in with Jesus into that, friends? Will you help Jesus work out this demonstration that brings joy to all the universe? Again, I say I want to be very practical about this. Do you know what’s so wonderful to the universe about what’s going on in the church? Well, I’ll tell you: Six thousand years ago, there was a rebellion that came in Heaven. And one-third of those bright angels took the stand of the rebel, Lucifer. You know, if one-third of the people in any church today would rebel, somebody would think there must be something wrong. Was there anything wrong back there in Heaven? Is that why Lucifer rebelled? Was there something wrong with God’s government? No. But Lucifer persuaded how many? One-third. He must have had *some* reason, didn’t he? Not a bit. Not even an excuse. But he did it. And one-third of them were so convinced that they went with him in that rebellion. Now he came to this world, and he told the universe that man could not keep the law of God. Sure enough, Adam and Eve failed. And for 6,000 years, Satan has been working on the theory that it is impossible for people to keep God’s law. God has had some individuals who have done it. Enoch did, didn’t he? He walked who with? God. Does God break the law? Then if Enoch walked with God, what did Enoch do? He pleased God.

My point is: Most of the people of this world have been voting with Satan. One of the things that God’s government is order and organization. This is what Satan rebelled against in Heaven. He said angels didn’t need to be under law. He rebelled against the idea that Jesus was put over him. In the church, God has proposed to demonstrate here on earth the government of Heaven, right here on this planet that the Devil claims as his own, the church is held as a fortress of the army of Heaven—an outpost of the church of Heaven. And the principles of Heaven’s government are to be demonstrated here. And so the whole universe is watching.

The practical point is: Can people work together in love? Can people submit to supervision and direction, not because they’re forced to, but because they love God and love His church and love their brethren? That’s the question. Lucifer says it can’t be done; God says it can. Jesus came down to demonstrate those principles. And while, for three and a half years, it looked as if He could never get His 12 apostles to that point, through the scenes of Gethsemane, and the Judgment Hall, and the cross, and the 50 days from the resurrection to Pentecost, through those experiences, they were led to the place where, when the day of Pentecost came, they were all what? Of one accord in one place. And, as the result, God poured upon them from the Heavenly Sanctuary the mighty showers of the Holy Spirit. And all the universe looked on in wonder. Oh, I wish it had stayed that way, don’t you? Will it ever be again? Oh, yes. In these closing moments of human history, God proposes to present His people, His church, to the universe as those that are in harmony with His law.

And so it is written in Revelation 14:12:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they which keep
the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”
Revelation 14:12.

I'll tell you this, friends. The Lord will never dare say that as long as the Devil is around, unless He knows His people will stand up to what He claims for them. "He's going to present a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing."

Don't misunderstand me, friends. There are two things that I don't know: I don't know all that that means; neither do I know all about how it's going to happen. There are a lot of other things I don't know. I don't know exactly how we're going to get from here into Heaven. These people who went to the moon and back spent several billion dollars. They hardly got off the doorstep of this earth. Just what the method is by which we're going up there, I couldn't explain to you scientifically or any other way. But I know I'm going, friends. I know a lot of things that I don't understand; I know them just because God says so. And all the methods that God is going to use to get me personally ready for the place where the sanctuary can close, all the methods that He's going to use to get His church clean inside and out, friends, I leave that with one who knows a thousand times more about it than I do. But I know it's going to happen, I've read it here. Yes, it's going to happen. And my part, as a little child, is just to trot along with my Father.

In Chicago, in one of those busy streets in the loop, a father was walking with his little boy one day, and he thought he'd test the little fellow. He looked down at him, and he said, "Sonny, where are we going?" The boy looked up, and he said, "Daddy, I don't know, but you do." Oh friends, I know that my Lord knows the way home. He told me enough about it so that I don't need to get lost. But there's so much about it that I don't know, I'm just anxious to run the way of His commandments all that I see, knowing that just over the hill there are more and greater things. "It doth not yet appear what we shall be" (1 John 3:2).

What do you say, friends? Are you with Him? Are you with Him to produce these? Let's go back now to Hebrews, the 10th chapter. I think we're ready to appreciate these verses now more than ever.

Let's begin again with the 19th verse:

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having an High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near" Hebrews 10:19–22.

Oh, let us draw near. Near to what? Near to Jesus, our Priest. But listen, if He's the Head, and the church is the body, if I draw near to Him, what else will I draw near to? The church. Can you get very close to a man's head and still be a mile away from his body? There are people who seem to think that all they need to do is take the Bible under their arm and say, "Well, it's all right to go to church if you want to, but I'm just dealing with Jesus." My dear friends, if there's a soul of you that has anything like that idea, I urge you to study the ninth chapter of the book of Acts. I want you to see how Jesus Christ dealt with Saul of Tarsus. He stopped him on the road to Damascus with the miraculous revelation, that vision, in which Jesus and Saul came

face to face, and the proud heart of the Pharisee was broken, he was humbled, and he cried out, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" And what did Jesus say? He sent him into Damascus, put him in touch with the church, the get his orders, his direction. Oh, what a lesson. Jesus and His church belong together.

I want to read a statement on this from the *Testimonies*:

"Christ is the fountain. The church is the channel of communication. Those who boast of personal independence need to be brought into closer relation to Christ by connection with His church upon the earth" *Testimony for the Church, Volume 3*, page 433.

What do you say? The Lord grant it for every one.

Back to Hebrews:

"...and having an High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near in full assurance of faith" Hebrews 10:21–23.

Friday night, the Lord willing, we're going on in our study of these wonderful verses. I want to study with you some more of these precious expressions in the 22nd and 23rd verses and onward. This is the heart of the book of Hebrews, the goal of the sanctuary service. And we'll continue this Friday night.

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