

**The Sanctuary Messages Series**  
**Lesson 4: The Laver**  
**Bible Sermon Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers**

Remember, the courtyard in the Sanctuary in the wilderness pointed to the ministry of Jesus on this earth. He ratified the Everlasting Covenant at the cross of Calvary. The Altar of Sacrifice points to the Lamb of Jesus Christ, the cross of Calvary, his spilled blood that cleanses us from all sin.

The exchange of giving up your sins for eternal life happens at the altar of sacrifice. It is in the courtyard that justification takes place. It is where Jesus takes the faithful from guilty to not guilty, from unrighteous to righteous, and from corrupt to pure. Justification in a repented sinner takes place instantaneously.

**Romans 5:1**

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Romans 4:24-25**

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

“The sinner is justified through the merits of Jesus, and this is God's acknowledgment of the perfection of the ransom paid for man. That Christ was obedient even unto the death of the cross is a pledge of the repenting sinner's acceptance with the Father. Then shall we permit ourselves to have a vacillating experience of doubting and believing, believing and doubting? Jesus is the pledge of our acceptance with God. We stand in favor before God, not because of any merit in ourselves, but because of our faith in ‘the Lord our righteousness.’” {Ellen White, Sign of the Times, July 4, 1892 par. 6}

**The Laver is after the Altar of Sacrifice and before the entrance of the Temple separated by the Holy and Most Holy Place.**

**Exodus 40:6-7**

6 And thou shalt set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

7 And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.

**What is the description of the laver and its purpose?**

**Exodus 30:17-21**

17 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

18 Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot *also of* brass, to wash *withal*: and thou shalt

put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein.

19 For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat:

20 When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD:

21 So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, *even* to him and to his seed throughout their generations.

**Laver (Hebrew)** = kîyôr kîyôr [*kee-yore', kee-yore'*]

From the same as H3564; properly something *round* (as *excavated* or *bored*), that is, a *chafing dish* for coals or a *caldron* for cooking; hence (from similarity of form) **a washbowl**; also (for the same reason) a *pulpit* or platform: - hearth, laver, pan, scaffold.

**Brass is made from copper and zinc. Bronze is made of copper and tin.**

“At the laver the priests were to wash their hands and their feet whenever they went into the sacred apartments, or approached the altar to offer a burnt offering unto the Lord. (Ellen white, Patriach and Prophets p. 347.3)

Before the priests went into the holy place of the temple they were required to wash their hands and feet at the laver. As the priests ministered at the Altar of Sacrifice, their feet and hands were dirty with dirt from the courtyard and dirt and blood from the sacrifices.

### **Exodus 38:8**

8 And he made the laver *of* brass, and the foot of it *of* brass, of the lookingglasses of *the women* assembling, which assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

The laver was evidently polished brass that reflected as a mirror or looking glass the reflected the image of the priest who looked upon the laver.

**Remember the brass represents the feet of Christ as described in Daniel and Revelation. We must humble ourselves in reverence to God at the feet of Jesus and be cleaned by the Word.**

### **Daniel 10:6**

6 His body also *was* like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

### **Revelation 1:15**

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

**At the altar of sacrifice we are cleansed from sin by the blood of the Lamb. The water of God purifies us from all worldly characters.**

**Hebrews 10:19-23**

- 19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,  
20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;  
21 And *having* an high priest over the house of God;  
22 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.  
23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

**The water in the laver points to the Word of God.**

**Psalms 119:9-11**

- 9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.  
10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.  
11 **Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee**

**John 15:3**

**3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**

**If you study God's word daily, character transformation will take place in the likeness of Jesus Christ.**

**Jesus is the Word in which He is the water that leads to eternal life**

**John 4:14**

**14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**

**The water at the laver also points to the Holy Spirit**

**John 7:37-39**

**37 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.****

**38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

**39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy**

Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

### **The water also points to God's purified and glorious church**

#### **Ephesians 5:25-27**

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 **That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,**

27 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.

**In vision Daniel (10:6) and John (Revelation 1:15) saw the feet of Jesus as polished (fined) brass like a mirror.**

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**Fine brass (Greek) - implied mean of whiteness or brilliancy (Strong's Greek Dictionary).**

**In order to be changed in the likeness of Christ we must daily bow down in submission and worship Him as our King and High Priest at His feet.**

**Spiritually what is the looking glass or a mirror?**

#### **James 1:23-25**

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Our characters should reflect the character of Christ to glorify His name when we look in the spiritual mirror of Jesus Christ and His law of liberty.

“The laver was placed between the altar and the congregation, that before they came into the presence of God, in the sight of the congregation, they might wash their hands and their feet. What impression was this to make upon the people? It was to show them that every particle of dust must be put away before they could go into the presence of God; for he was so high and holy that unless they did comply with these conditions, death would follow. . . . The Lord requires his ministers to be pure and holy, rightly to represent the principles of truth in their own lives, and by their example to bring others up upon a high level.

God requires all who profess to be his chosen people, though they are not teachers of the truth, to be careful to preserve personal cleanliness and purity, also cleanliness and order in their houses and upon their premises. We are examples to the world, living epistles known and read of all men. God requires all who profess godliness, and especially those who teach the truth to others, to abstain from all appearance of evil.” - (Ellen White, *Gospel Workers* 1892 p. 163.2}

Jesus is our High Priest that connects us to the Heavenly Kingdom. The faithful and obedient our priest unto the Lord.

### **1 Peter 2:9**

9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

“And to show the carefulness they were to observe in regard to being cleanly, Moses was to put a laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, "and put water therein to wash withal." And Moses and Aaron that ministered before the Lord, and Aaron's sons, were to wash their hands and their feet thereat when they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they went in before the Lord.

Here was the commandment of the great and mighty God. There was to be nothing slack and untidy about those who appeared before him, when they should come into his holy presence. And what was this for? What was the object of all this carefulness? Was it merely to recommend the people to God? Was it merely to gain his approbation? The reason that was given me was this: that a right impression might be made upon the people. If those who ministered in the sacred office should fail to manifest care and reverence for God in their apparel and their deportment, the people would lose their awe and reverence for God and his sacred service. If the priests showed great reverence for God, by being very careful and very particular as they came into his presence, it gave the people an exalted idea of God and his requirements. It showed them that God was holy, that his work was sacred, and that everything in connection with the work of God must be holy; that it must be free from everything like impurity and uncleanness; and that all defilement must be put away from those that approach nigh to God. From the light that has been given me, there has been a carelessness in this respect. I might speak of it, as Paul presents it. It is carried out in will-worship and neglecting of the body. But this voluntary humility, this will-worship and neglecting of the body, is not the humility that savors of Heaven. That humility that savors of Heaven will be particular to have the person, and actions, and apparel, of all who preach the holy truth of God, right, and perfectly proper, so that every item connected with us will recommend our holy religion. The very dress will be a recommendation of the truth to unbelievers. It will be a sermon in itself. (Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, May 30, 1871 par. 10)