

Hebrews 8.2

Minister of the True

The fullness of the work of Jesus Christ in the redemption of His people cannot be properly understood from a merely earthly perspective. He came here to show us how we were to live, but that ministry of example dies unseen and unappreciated unless something more happens. God does not show us an example and say to us, "now go do likewise and we will see how you did at the end." He atoned for sin in the death of Christ and affirmed our forgiveness in the resurrection but something happened between those 2 events that must be understood... Jesus Christ offered His own blood at the real altar of God and made the sacrifice complete. And it is this work, that which was done in heaven which is the anchor for our hope... Jesus Christ serves as our priest in the real sanctuary of God. And herein lies the foundation of our hope.

I. THE TRUE MINISTRY

- A. The heart of our faith in Christ comes not from His work here, but from His work before the Father in the true tabernacle.
- B. If He had been unable to offer Himself with the true blood, in the true tabernacle then we would have no hope.
- C. The actual ministry of Christ as High priest occurs in that true tabernacle...
- D. This work is the absolute manifestation of condescension to us, for He ministers on our behalf while at the fullness of His magnificent glory.
- E. He emptied Himself when He came and died, He was made the fullest possible display of God's glory upon His triumphant entry into the throne room, victorious over sin and death and all evil...

Philippians 2.6-11

2Corinthians 4.3-6

II. THE TRUE TABERNACLE

- A. This work is on behalf of His people in the holiest place. He is the ONLY priest of the true sanctuary; of the true tabernacle

B. He alone intercedes, He alone mediates the covenant.

“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.”

(Hebrews 8:6, NKJV)

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,” (1 Timothy 2:5, NKJV)

C. He enters into the true sanctuary, the true holy of holies, the throne room of God

1. To offer His sacrifice
2. To mediate on behalf of His people
3. To Himself abide forever in the presence of God
 - a. The priesthood could go but once a year
 - b. With blood
 - c. For a brief moment
 - d. In great fear and trembling...
4. But Jesus abides there forever. It is His own rightful place, where no other has the right to serve.

D. But He IS the true tabernacle - the human nature of Christ is the eternal substantive

transformation of the second person of the Godhead.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14, NKJV)

1. He tabernacled among us... the word for dwelt is *eskanosen* it means to dwell in a tent...
2. the same word is used in Revelation 7.15, and 21.3

“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.”

(Revelation 7:15, NKJV)

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

(Revelation 21:3, NKJV)

E. He IS eternally the Son, the effulgence of God's magnificent glory ministering in the true temple that no other man has ever even seen, let alone entered... and to dwell there? Impossible, yet Christ does and on our behalf!

III. THE TRUE PATTERN

A. The whole of the tabernacle and the temple afterwards was a picture of this truth, a picture of the Christ who would Himself tabernacle among us...

“And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.” (Exodus 25:8–9)

B. This is the picture of Christ as the only means to come into the presence of God. He answers for all the parts of the tabernacle, He is both priest and sacrifice; offering and offerer; and each part of the temple and the tabernacle which was shown to Moses on the mountain is a piece of the picture of Christ, for no one part tells the whole story.

1. The bread of life
2. The light of the glory of God
3. The sacrifice
4. The prayers of the people
5. The way of entry in to the presence of God
6. The glory and the majesty

7. The sea, and the bath - demonstrating the crystal sea and the waters of the river of life, which Jesus gives freely to all who come to Him...

C. The patterns of worship are all pictures of Christ

“which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.” (Colossians 2:17, NKJV)

D. The whole life of the Christian is summed up in the simple truth that Christ IS tabernacled among us as the effulgence of God - that we who were rebels and outcasts are now the very children of God.

“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;” (Colossians 2:9, NKJV)

Ephesians 2.14-18

E. If Christ tabernacled among us is the focus and the hope of the Christian life, then it is plain that those who seek to add to Christ deny Him. He neither needs nor will He accept help from anyone. And it is vain to seek any other path to God. For none exists, and no one is able to fashion another.

IV. THE TRUE VESSEL

- A. No other tabernacle could ever fully contain God.
- B. The condescension of God in dwelling among us is beyond anything we can fully comprehend. Solomon put it this way in his prayer of dedication for the temple.

*““But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!”
(1 Kings 8:27, NKJV)*

- C. He dwelt in a fashion in the temple and tabernacle of the OT

Exodus 30.1-10

- D. But in Christ it is no partial dwelling, no token, no symbol. In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;” (Colossians 2:9, NKJV)

- E. This is not any effect which is like a shekinah glory that sat upon Christ, nor was it a temporary indwelling as in the prophets of old... But rather God Himself took on flesh and in that flesh He

deigned to live not only among men, but as a man Himself.

F. Again I must point out the ridiculous nature of any attempt to make Mary or some random saint have any part in the labor of the High Priest who is God made flesh. Who fulfills His ordained labor and is satisfied

Isaiah 53.10-11

1. As in the job has been completed
2. As in the job was done well
3. As in the offering was accepted (and so God was satisfied by that offering)
4. As in wrath was thus appeased, meaning that there is no longer any wrath remaining for those who are found in Christ.

Hebrews 10.16-18

Romans 8.1-6

V. TRUE FORGIVENESS

A. Here is the hope we then have.

1. We, who are found in Christ have been brought into the presence of God by the blood of Jesus.

2. He is standing both at our side and at the right hand of the Father presenting us to God, introducing us and saying "this one is mine, accept them for the sake of my suffering" to which God replies to us - "well done, enter into your rest"
- B. This hope is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, His blood being then offered at the true altar of God. Since this is the real, and not in any fashion partial, it is accomplished forever on behalf of every person for whom it is intended.
- C. Nothing then can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ, for that love is not based upon any perceived worth or value in us, but rather in that finished work, blood bought appeasing that Jesus accomplished.

Romans 8.31-39

- D. Further - This same Jesus who bought us, who loves us, who forgives us, who represents us - this same Jesus will return and take us unto Himself ...

1Thessalonians 4.13-18

E.This hope is 100 percent based on the fact that God "in Christ" forgives us, and nothing else contributes to that forgiveness.

*“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”
(Ephesians 4:32, NKJV)*