

Message Seven

The Laver of Bronze

DT *Hymns*: 1193, 1135

Scripture Reading: Exo. 30:17-21; John 13:1-17; Titus 3:5; Eph. 5:26-27

- Exo 30:17 And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
Exo 30:18 You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing. And you shall put it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it.
- Exo 30:19 And Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet with water from it;
Exo 30:20 When they go into the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water, that they may not die; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn an offering by fire to Jehovah,
Exo 30:21 They shall wash their hands and their feet, that they may not die. And it shall be a perpetual statute to them, for him and for his seed throughout their generations.
- John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come for Him to depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the uttermost.
- John 13:2 And while supper was taking place, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, that he should betray Him,
John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all into His hands and that He had come forth from God and was going to God,
John 13:4 Rose from supper and laid aside His outer garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself;
John 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
- John 13:6 He came then to Simon Peter. Peter said to Him, Lord, do You wash my feet?
John 13:7 Jesus answered and said to him, What I am doing you do not know now, but you will know after these things.
- John 13:8 Peter said to Him, You shall by no means wash my feet forever. Jesus answered him, Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me.
- John 13:9 Simon Peter said to Him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.
John 13:10 Jesus said to him, He who is bathed has no need except to wash his feet, but is wholly clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.
- John 13:11 For He knew the one betraying Him; for this reason He said, Not all of you are clean.
John 13:12 Then when He had washed their feet and taken His outer garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, Do you know what I have done to you?
John 13:13 You call Me the Teacher and the Lord, and you say rightly, for I am.
John 13:14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
- John 13:15 For I have given you an example so that you also may do even as I have done to you.
John 13:16 Truly, truly, I say to you, A slave is not greater than his master, nor one who is sent greater than the one who sends him.
- John 13:17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.
- Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

I. It is crucial that we understand the significance of the laver of bronze—Exo. 30:18:

- Exo 30:18 You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing. And you shall put it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it.
- A. The laver of bronze typifies the washing power of the life-giving Spirit issuing from the death of Christ—Titus 3:5:
Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
1. The locating of the laver after the altar signifies that the washing power of the laver comes out of God's judgment at the altar—Exo. 30:18.

- Exo 30:18 You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing. And you shall put it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it.
2. After passing through God's full judgment at the altar (the cross), the crucified Christ entered into resurrection and became the life-giving Spirit who washes us—1 Cor. 15:45; 6:11; Titus 3:5.

1 Cor 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

1 Cor 6:11 And these things were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
 3. The dimensions of the laver are not given, signifying that the life-giving Spirit is immeasurable, unlimited—John 3:34.

John 3:34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for He gives the Spirit not by measure.
- B. Bronze signifies God's righteous judgment—Exo. 26:37:
- Exo 26:37 And for the screen you shall make five pillars of acacia and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.
1. The bronze used to make the laver came from the mirrors of the serving women who served at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, implying that the laver of bronze was a mirror that could reflect and expose—38:8.

Exo 38:8 And he made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze from the mirrors of the serving women who served at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting.
 2. This indicates that the judgment suffered by Christ on the cross has the power to expose our uncleanness and our need to be washed.
- C. The laver was put between the altar and the Tent of Meeting to continue the work of the altar for the entrance into the tabernacle—30:18.
- Exo 30:18 You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing. And you shall put it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it.
- D. The location of the laver was after the altar, but the function of the laver was before that of the altar—vv. 20-21.
- Exo 30:20 When they go into the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water, that they may not die; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn an offering by fire to Jehovah,
- Exo 30:21 They shall wash their hands and their feet, that they may not die. And it shall be a perpetual statute to them, for him and for his seed throughout their generations.
- E. The water put into the laver signifies the washing of the life-giving Spirit—v. 18; Eph. 5:26.
- Exo 30:18 You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing. And you shall put it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it.
- Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
- F. The washing of the laver signifies not the washing away of sin by the blood of Christ but the washing away of the defilement that comes from contacting earthly things, by the life-giving Spirit—1 John 1:7; John 13:5.
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
- John 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
- G. The priests were required to wash in the laver before serving, lest they die; this indicates that if we try to serve God without washing away our earthly defilement by the life-giving Spirit, we will suffer spiritual death—Exo. 30:20-21.

- Exo 30:20 When they go into the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water, that they may not die; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn an offering by fire to Jehovah,
- Exo 30:21 They shall wash their hands and their feet, that they may not die. And it shall be a perpetual statute to them, for him and for his seed throughout their generations.
- H. The laver of bronze was for the operation of God's dwelling place, for the operation of the tabernacle—vv. 18-19:
- Exo 30:18 You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing. And you shall put it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it.
- Exo 30:19 And Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet with water from it;
1. Without the laver, nothing in the tabernacle or in the outer court could operate.
 2. Unless the priests washed in the laver, there was no way for the tabernacle to operate—v. 19.
- Exo 30:19 And Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet with water from it;
3. If the laver had been removed from the outer court, everything else in the tabernacle and the outer court would still have been complete, but there would not have been any way for these things to operate.
 4. The service of the priests in the outer court and in the tabernacle depended on their washing in the laver—v. 19.
- Exo 30:19 And Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet with water from it;

II. We need to experience the laver, the washing of the life-giving Spirit—John 13:1-17; Titus 3:5; Eph. 5:26-27:

- John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come for Him to depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the uttermost.
- John 13:2 And while supper was taking place, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, that he should betray Him,
- John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all into His hands and that He had come forth from God and was going to God,
- John 13:4 Rose from supper and laid aside His outer garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself;
- John 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
- John 13:6 He came then to Simon Peter. Peter said to Him, Lord, do You wash my feet?
- John 13:7 Jesus answered and said to him, What I am doing you do not know now, but you will know after these things.
- John 13:8 Peter said to Him, You shall by no means wash my feet forever. Jesus answered him, Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me.
- John 13:9 Simon Peter said to Him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.
- John 13:10 Jesus said to him, He who is bathed has no need except to wash his feet, but is wholly clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.
- John 13:11 For He knew the one betraying Him; for this reason He said, Not all of you are clean.
- John 13:12 Then when He had washed their feet and taken His outer garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, Do you know what I have done to you?
- John 13:13 You call Me the Teacher and the Lord, and you say rightly, for I am.
- John 13:14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
- John 13:15 For I have given you an example so that you also may do even as I have done to you.
- John 13:16 Truly, truly, I say to you, A slave is not greater than his master, nor one who is sent greater than the one who sends him.
- John 13:17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.
- Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
- Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
- Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

- A. The laver is the place where we wash away our earthly defilement and are made clean—
Exo. 30:18:
Exo 30:18 You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing. And you shall put it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it.
1. Although we have the divine life, we are still living in the fallen flesh on the earth, and through the earthly touch we are often dirtied; we cannot avoid the earthly touch.
 2. If we would be real priests and practice the priesthood, all defilement from the earthly touch must be washed away—v. 19:
Exo 30:19 And Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet with water from it;
 - a. Before we believers, as the New Testament priests, can serve God by Christ and His cross, we must wash away the defilement that comes from the contact with earthly things and matters.
 - b. If we remain in the defilement that comes from the earthly touch, we cannot serve God, we cannot pray, and we cannot function in the meetings.
 - c. Every day we need to come to the laver to be washed by the Holy Spirit from the earthly touch.
 - d. This washing is not by the blood but by the spiritual water, which is the Holy Spirit—Titus 3:5; Eph. 5:26.
Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
- B. In John 13:1-17 we have an experience of the laver portrayed by the Lord's washing of the disciples' feet:
John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come for Him to depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the uttermost.
John 13:2 And while supper was taking place, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, that he should betray Him,
John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all into His hands and that He had come forth from God and was going to God,
John 13:4 Rose from supper and laid aside His outer garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself;
John 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
John 13:6 He came then to Simon Peter. Peter said to Him, Lord, do You wash my feet?
John 13:7 Jesus answered and said to him, What I am doing you do not know now, but you will know after these things.
John 13:8 Peter said to Him, You shall by no means wash my feet forever. Jesus answered him, Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me.
John 13:9 Simon Peter said to Him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.
John 13:10 Jesus said to him, He who is bathed has no need except to wash his feet, but is wholly clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.
John 13:11 For He knew the one betraying Him; for this reason He said, Not all of you are clean.
John 13:12 Then when He had washed their feet and taken His outer garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, Do you know what I have done to you?
John 13:13 You call Me the Teacher and the Lord, and you say rightly, for I am.
John 13:14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
John 13:15 For I have given you an example so that you also may do even as I have done to you.
John 13:16 Truly, truly, I say to you, A slave is not greater than his master, nor one who is sent greater than the one who sends him.
John 13:17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.
1. In their spirit the regenerated ones are in God and in the heavenlies, but in their body

they are still living in the flesh and walking on the earth:

- a. Through their contact with earthly things they often become dirty.
 - b. Because the dirt from the earthly touch frustrates fellowship, they need to be washed by the water in the laver.
2. The water in verse 5 signifies the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), the word (Eph. 5:26; John 15:3), and life (John 19:34).
- John 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
- Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
- Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
- John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
- John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.
3. The foot-washing in John 13 is a sign having spiritual significance; the significance of spiritual foot-washing is that it is for maintaining pleasant fellowship with the Lord and with one another—1 John 1:3, 7.
- John 13 be omitted
- 1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
4. The Lord's washing of the disciples' feet was a matter of love to the uttermost; to wash one another's feet, therefore, is a matter of brotherly love—John 13:1, 4-5, 14-15, 34-35.
- John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come for Him to depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the uttermost.
- John 13:4 Rose from supper and laid aside His outer garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself;
- John 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
- John 13:14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
- John 13:15 For I have given you an example so that you also may do even as I have done to you.
- John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
- John 13:35 By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
- C. Titus 3:5 speaks of the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit:
- Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
1. The Greek word translated "washing" literally means "laver," which is for the washing away of uncleanness.
 2. In verse 5 the Greek word for *regeneration* refers to a change from one state to another; being born again is the commencing of this change.
- Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,
3. The washing of regeneration begins with our being born again and continues with the renewing of the Holy Spirit as the process of God's new creation, a process that

makes us a new man—Eph. 4:23-24:

Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

- a. This washing is a kind of reconditioning, remaking, or remodeling, with the divine life.
- b. The washing of regeneration purges away all the things of the old nature of our old man, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit imparts something new—the divine essence of the new man—into our being.
- c. In this process there is a passing from our old state into a wholly new one, from the old creation into the new creation—2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15.
2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.
Gal 6:15 For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation is what matters.
- d. Both the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit are working in us continually throughout our life until the completion of the new creation—Titus 3:5.
Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

D. In His heavenly ministry the ascended Christ is cleansing the church “by the washing of the water in the word”—Eph. 5:26:

Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

1. The Greek word for *washing* in verse 26 is literally “laver”:

Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

a. In Greek the definite article is used before this word, causing it to refer to *the* laver, the laver that was known to all the Jews.

b. In the Old Testament the priests used the laver to wash away their earthly defilement (Exo. 30:18-21); now the laver, the washing of the water, washes us from defilement.

Exo 30:18 You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing. And you shall put it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it.

Exo 30:19 And Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet with water from it;

Exo 30:20 When they go into the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water, that they may not die; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn an offering by fire to Jehovah,

Exo 30:21 They shall wash their hands and their feet, that they may not die. And it shall be a perpetual statute to them, for him and for his seed throughout their generations.

2. The water in Ephesians 5:26 refers to the flowing life of God, which is typified by the flowing water—Exo. 17:6; 1 Cor. 10:4; John 7:38-39; Rev. 21:6; 22:1, 17.

Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

Exo 17:6 I will be standing before you there upon the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it so that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.

John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were

about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Rev 21:6 And He said to me, They have come to pass. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give to him who thirsts from the spring of the water of life freely.

Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

3. The redeeming blood washes away our sins (1 John 1:7; Rev. 7:14), whereas the water of life washes away the blemishes of the natural life of our old man, such as spots or wrinkles.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

Rev 7:14 And I said to him, My lord, you know. And he said to me, These are those who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

4. We are now in such a washing process so that Christ may “present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish”—Eph. 5:27.

Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.