

the loveliness of Christ

2:1 – 16 Leviticus

~ Mankind is the single-most colossal failure in God's universe, without question. The Scriptures are becoming very outspoken and painstakingly specific at this point in our Spiritual Safari. God says, "they are all gone out of the way." The original language suggests a wreck whereby the vessel you are traveling in has experienced catastrophic damage; and mankind certainly is a wretched wreck today! If anyone insists, I speak for myself, but let's keep this real, too, shall we? - All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. God can't save us by perfection because we're not perfect. We cannot keep His law perfectly. God does not save by IM-perfection, either, because God demands perfection! God said, "the way of peace they have not known." Our contemporary society's peaceful demonstrations are culminating into outright terrorism in the streets by the opposing and oppressed sides; and, my friends, there is but one cause: sin.

A billionaire once spent a whole bunch of money for a report which concluded mankind is naturally a war-like creature! I don't think anyone will argue that? I've taught that simplistic truth free of charge for decades. War is naturally in the human heart. James makes that statement. Mankind is trying to perfect and control some very fiendish instruments that could very well lead to a frightful annihilating end to humanity. This is not the intended purpose of man or this life, friends; if it is, then we should all just go jump off a bridge. No, God has other views for mankind and the Lord Jesus Christ is exactly what God has in mind for us! The Lord Jesus Christ is the man that was in total obedience to and well pleasing to God Himself. There was glory in His manhood and His loveliness was, truly, as sweet perfume. The coming to the earth of the Lord Jesus was His doxology and His life was a blessing and message, and His departure was the benediction. The winsomeness of Christ Jesus has filled this world and any man who will believe with a new hope and ideal concerning his life.

We have already learned in our Spiritual Safari that we cannot meet the standards of God by keeping His law and we have also learned that His life and teachings do not save us. That all leaves us in an intellectual debacle that we will only resolve by crying out to God for wisdom, judgment and discernment in His Word. Salvation is offered to all – but only those - who believe in His death on the cross for their sins, burial, and His resurrection for our justification. In that connection, we are still considering the five offerings found in the first five chapters of Leviticus; and we saw the burnt offering in complete detail in our previous report. We examined in reasonable conclusiveness how the burnt offering speaks of the Person of Christ. In this report, we come to the meal offering which also speaks of Christ; but the burnt offering spoke of Christ in depth as well as death – here the humanity of Jesus is revealed in all of its perfection and loveliness!

This chapter looks like a simple recipe for bread - because that's exactly what it is! It is called the meat offering; and the meal offering - or the food offering; but fleshy meat, per se, is not in this offering. This offering was likely offered connected to another that involved the shedding of blood - but this one, specifically, did not. The deity of Christ is NOT in view here at all. Christ Jesus was perfectly human, and He was humanly perfect, also. The goal of God for man is all wrapped up in and fulfilled in His Son. Christ is the second man, but He is the last Adam. There aren't going to be any more Adam's but there are going to be a whole bunch more people made just like Jesus. It doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be made like Him....

1 And when any will offer a meat offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon:

~ There are two very distinct and important aspects of this offering to consider. The first aspect is the ingredients that were included. The second aspect is the specifically excluded ingredients. You will want to make a note of those. The first inclusive ingredient is fine flour. Well, fine flour in the wilderness comes by beating it out by hand. Give it a try sometime and discover exactly what's involved in that process. Put it in a mortar and use a pestle and let me know how long it takes you to make enough for an

offering! If it's not extremely fine, then the meal will be coarse and uneven. Well, this recipe requires fine flour.

This section of Scripture speaks of the personality of Christ; and today we could call Jesus a well-integrated individual with a well-balanced personality. Jesus was very normal - and may have been the only man that ever truly was normal down here. Sin has made the human race uneven and "lumpy" from a lack of spiritual refinement. One part of our personality is overdeveloped: resulting in another area suffering arrested development. A study in abnormal psychology will ultimately reveal you have every single character trait in the 'abnormal' spectrum! The definition of 'normal' is 'what most people do' and sometimes normal is rather far out! What's normal today may not be so normal tomorrow, either, by the way.

Samson, in the Book of Judges, is the extreme Biblical example of a very uneven individual. Although he was able to perform superb feats of physical strength, Samson was weak of both will and mind. Paul was a mental giant, but we're pretty sure he was very weak in the body! Simon Peter was moved by emotion declaring he would die for Jesus - but then denying Him the same night - revealing a definite weakness in the area of the volitional and of willpower. King Saul was self-willed and stubborn, and totally unable to bow the knee in obedience to God. That is what led to the kingdom being taken from his hands by his death. Every single one of these men were lumpy; possessing both over and underdeveloped personalities. The only contrast of balance we can find is the Lord Jesus Christ. We find equipoise in all areas of the personality of Christ Jesus.

Jesus drove the money changers out from the temple, but He took little children in His arms. At age twelve, the people marvelled at His wisdom. When He began to teach, the people were amazed, and they said, "... how knoweth this man having never learned?" Nevertheless, the Lord Jesus Christ never appealed to His intellect as the basis for any judgment. The ONLY motive for His conduct and action was that He came to do His Father's will - period! Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus, and over the cold, defiant and indifferent city of Jerusalem. Well, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead,

and pronounced severe judgment over Jerusalem! That judgment was literally fulfilled in 70 AD by Titus the Roman, by the way.

Jesus was not guided or governed by His emotions. There is nothing self-willed that we can find about Jesus, but nothing could have stopped Him from going to Jerusalem to die! Jesus says repeatedly, "not MY will but Thy will be done." Pouring on the olive oil speaks of the Holy Spirit. Let's make careful note this is oil UPON the offerings in verse one. Drop down to verses four and five and the flour is mingled WITH oil. Then, in verse seven the oil goes WITH flour. So, the oil is upon the sacrifice, mingled with the sacrifice and a part of the sacrifice; drenched in oil, as you can see. Oil is applied in many different ways. The prominence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ is very noticeable. Christ was born of the Spirit = mingled with oil. Jesus was baptized of the Spirit = oil upon Him. Jesus was led of the Spirit = oil poured upon. Jesus taught, performed miracles, and offered Himself in the power of the Holy Spirit = with oil. If Jesus needed the power of the Holy Spirit, then what about you? I know I need the power of the Spirit of God in my life. We need Him today because, without Him, we can do nothing.

We also find some frankincense as we unpack this very first verse! This is some undisclosed and secret formulation of something we don't know anything about today. It was mixed to make incense – we know that – but it was a separate part of the incense. It came from a plant or tree and it exuded a potent fragrance when handled, crushed or beaten; and that definitely speaks of the fragrance of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ under the fires of tension, pressure and persecution and even death! Most of us saints don't smell so good when we're pressed too hard! Some of us get downright unpleasant. This is what the Father saw in Him in Whom He delighteth! Believers have the privilege of sharing Christ with the Father today – and friends, THAT is extraordinary! If you want ANY sweetness in your life today, you'll have to partake of Christ; just as we're doing right now! We talk about Him and we look at Him and think about Him in our life so that perhaps some of His sweetness will come into our life! There is a fragrance about the life of Christ that is very nice. What kind of spiritual smell does your life emit? Does Christ smell sweet to you? ~

2 And he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests: and he shall take there out his handful of the flour thereof, and of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof; and the priest shall burn the memorial of it upon the altar, to be an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD:

3 And the remnant of the meat offering shall be Aaron's and his sons': it is a thing most holy of the offerings of the LORD made by fire.

4 And if thou bring an oblation of a meat offering baken in the oven, it shall be unleavened cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, or unleavened wafers anointed with oil.

5 And if thy oblation be a meat offering baken in a pan, it shall be of fine flour unleavened, mingled with oil.

6 Thou shalt part it in pieces, and pour oil thereon: it is a meat offering.

7 And if thy oblation be a meat offering baken in the frying pan, it shall be made of fine flour with oil.

8 And thou shalt bring the meat offering that is made of these things unto the LORD: and when it is presented unto the priest, he shall bring it unto the altar.

9 And the priest shall take from the meat offering a memorial thereof, and shall burn it upon the altar: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

10 And that which is left of the meat offering shall be Aaron's and his sons': it is a thing most holy of the offerings of the LORD made by fire.

11 No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of the LORD made by fire.

~ Here are the specifically excluded items we spoke of. God mentions them just in case there's any question in your mind about whether or not these

were to be placed on the altar. This makes it all really simple, see? All Scriptural reference to leaven is always as a principle of evil. We have well established that on this safari. Jesus warned His apostles about the leaven of the Pharisees. Jesus explained He was talking about the doctrinal teaching of the Pharisees. Leaven will come up again and again in our expedition and we'll deal with it each time it does. Leaven is to be kept out of the Gospel because there is no evil in Christ.

Honey is also specifically excluded, and it represents natural sweetness. Honey never rots - but it can go sour. So many so-called Christians have a whole lot of soured honey dripping in their life and assume a pious pose in public where they're seemingly as sweet as can be. They wear a super Sunday smile and a five-thousand-dollar suit to match it. They call everyone brother and they have a miracle halo cleaning polish. The reality is that these people can and do engage in vicious slander and malicious gossip. They are honestly more dangerous than a killer with a gun on the loose.

I can name half a dozen people on this forum who have tried to end this ministry. They have criticized it, insulted it and physically impeded its progress; and they say to my face, "... we love you, brother!" You know the old saying – who needs enemies with these fine saints? Actually, I don't think that's how the saying goes, but I digress. Is your life all honey and buttering people up? If it is, I doubt you are reading any of this. The Lord Jesus tells it like it is, friends; and what more could we want, because it's what we need today....

12 As for the oblation of the firstfruits, ye shall offer them unto the LORD: but they shall not be burnt on the altar for a sweet savour.

13 And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.

14 And if thou offer a meat offering of thy firstfruits unto the LORD, thou shalt offer for the meat offering of thy firstfruits green ears of corn dried by the fire, even corn beaten out of full ears.

15 And thou shalt put oil upon it, and lay frankincense thereon: it is a meat offering.

16 And the priest shall burn the memorial of it, part of the beaten corn thereof, and part of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof: it is an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

~ The “salt” in verse thirteen is the salt of the covenant; and they still do things this way to this day. That salt speaks of faithfulness! The Lord Jesus Christ is faithful! His Name even becomes Faithful and True in Revelation after His earthly life is finished, and He moves back into Heaven. How faithful to Him are you? Have you been found faithful in the law? Do you bring your firstfruits to God every morning? Do you keep His commandments? Why? I hope you can travel along again with our Spiritual Safari in our next report as we gather several more pointed and convicting questions ~
