

#3 The Rebuilding of the Altar of God— the Altar of Burnt Offering

Bird's-eye view 3/6-12

I “They built the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings upon it, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God” (Ezra 3:2b): A For the recovery of the house we need the recovery of the altar: 1 The first thing to be recovered for the church life is the altar: Rom. 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service. 1 Cor. 2:2 For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified. 2 The problem is that we have come back from Babylon to Jerusalem, yet at Jerusalem we may still keep many things for our own interests; we may not offer everything on the altar for God’s interests and for God’s satisfaction: a We should not come back to Jerusalem yet maintain our life as it was in Babylon. b The life in Jerusalem must be absolutely for the Lord’s interests. B The altar of burnt offering typifies the cross of Christ: Num. 28:2 Command the children of Israel and say to them, My offering, My food for My offerings by fire of a satisfying fragrance to Me, you shall be careful to present to Me at its appointed time. 1 In His economy God gives us one person—Christ—and one way—the cross: a The cross is the center of God’s operation in His economy. Luke 9:23 And He said to them all, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. b God governs everything by the cross and deals with everything by the cross. 2 The cross is the base, the ground, of all spiritual experience; all spiritual experience begins from the cross: a In order to progress spiritually, we need to pass through the cross daily. b If we want to have a proper church life, we need to experience the cross. c Through the cross we need to become nothing, to have nothing, and to be able to do nothing; otherwise, what we are, what we have, and what we can do will become a substitute for Christ. II “They began to offer up burnt offerings to Jehovah” (Ezra 3:6a): A The burnt offering signifies Christ’s being absolute for God’s satisfaction: 1 The burnt offering, which was

wholly for God’s satisfaction, typifies Christ as God’s pleasure and satisfaction. 2 The burnt offering typifies Christ not only in His living a life that is perfect and absolute for God but also in His being the life that enables God’s people to have such a living. 2 Cor. 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised. 3 The burnt offering is Christ Himself, and we are one with Him; thus, the burnt offering is also our oneness with Christ. B The burnt offering is for God’s food that God may enjoy it and be satisfied: 1 Although God is almighty, He cannot provide Himself something to eat; His food must come from His people. 2 Christ is God’s food, but He is not God’s food in a direct way; rather, Christ is God’s food served to God by us. C The Hebrew word translated “burnt offering” literally means “that which goes up” and denotes something that is ascending to God; this ascending refers to Christ: 1 The only thing that can ascend to God from the earth is the life lived by Christ, for He is the unique person to live a life that is absolutely for God: Heb. 10:5 Therefore, coming into the world, He says, “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.” 2 Then I said, Behold, I have come (in the roll of the book it is written concerning Me) to do Your will, O God.” 2 By laying our hands on Christ as the burnt offering, we are joined to Him. 3 As Christ lives in us, He repeats in us the life He lived on the earth, the life of the burnt offering. D The burnt offering is “a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah”: Lev. 1:9 ...Then the priest shall burn the whole on the altar, as a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah. 1 The Hebrew words translated “satisfying fragrance” literally mean “savor of rest or satisfaction”. 2 The satisfying fragrance is a savor that brings satisfaction, peace, and rest; such a satisfying fragrance is an enjoyment to God. 3 Because Christ lived a life that was absolutely for God’s satisfaction, His living was a satisfying fragrance, a sweet savor ascending to God for His pleasure and satisfaction. III In Leviticus the first offering that is mentioned is not the sin offering or the trespass offering but the burnt offering: A We need Christ first as our

burnt offering because our first situation before God, our first problem related to God, is not a matter of trespasses but of not being for God: **1** God created us to be His expression and His representation. **2** God created us that we might be for Him; He did not create us for ourselves, but as fallen human beings, we live for ourselves, not for Him. **B** The burnt offering means that as those who were created by God for the purpose of expressing and representing Him, we should be for nothing other than God. **C** We need to realize that we are not absolutely for God and that of ourselves we cannot be absolute; therefore, we need to take Christ as our burnt offering. [Lev. 1:4-5](#) And he shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him, to make expiation for him. And he shall slaughter the young bull before Jehovah; and Aaron's sons the priests shall present the blood and sprinkle the blood on and around the altar that is at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. **IV** To live a life of the continual burnt offering is to be a living sacrifice: **A** The burnt offering is a type of our consecration, of our offering ourselves to God as a living sacrifice; the meaning of consecration is to offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. **B** The daily burnt offering in the Old Testament typifies that, in the New Testament, we who belong to God should offer ourselves daily to God. **C** Today, in our Christian life and church life, there is the need for the continual burnt offering. **V** We need to worship God the Father with Christ as the burnt offering for God's satisfaction to fulfill His desire: **A** God wants us to worship Him with Christ as the reality of all the offerings; the offerings are for pleasing God and making Him happy. **B** Proper worship is a matter of satisfying God with Christ as the burnt offering: **1** When we worship the Father with Christ as the reality of the burnt offering, a fragrance well pleasing to God will ascend to Him for His satisfaction. **2** Since God is satisfied with our offering to Him Christ as the reality of the burnt offering, He will render His sweet acceptance to us; this is the significance of the burnt offering.

神戸に在る召会交わりと報告事項

1. 祈りの負担:

a 「世界の究極の情勢は、一つの事のため、神の究極の回復である主の再来をもたらすことである」を知り、目を覚まして、自分自身の用意を整える。

b 2023年の新しい召会生活の実行のため:

- ①【食べる】キリストを毎日食べて、キリストで構成され、キリストを表現し、キリストを代行する。
- ②【生む】福音を伝えて、救われる人を生み出す。
- ③【養い・成就する】新人を家庭集会で養い、バイタルグループで成就して、新しい奉仕者を生み出す。
- ④【建造する】主日の集会は建造のためです。YouTubeからZoomへ、Zoomから集会所へ、建造のために集会所に集まる。

2. 親子ジョイフルタイム:

3/5(主)13:30-14:30@本山

3. 本山学生福音センターについて:

3/18(土)に完成し、引き渡しとなります。

これに合わせて、林純正 B、林純安 S、余力聖美 S、ルーカス君が神戸に来ます。また、余力純一家は、3/20(月)に引っ越しします。

本山学生福音センターの活用とこのブレンディングが祝福されるようにお祈りください。

4. 東大阪とのブレンディング

3/25(土) 26(主)に東大阪から若い在職青年の兄弟姉妹が34家族、神戸にブレンディングに来られます。彼らは福音を学ぶために来ます。このブレンディングが祝福されますように。

5. 3月福音集会担当按配

3/12 夙川

3/19 YP

3/26 六甲

6. 土曜 8:30 9:00 の預言準備集会担当

3/11

六甲

3/18

魚崎・六アイ

3/25

本山

7. 3月国際長老責任者訓練:

3/31(金)8:30-17:30

4/1(土)8:30-17:30

4/2(主)13:30-17:30

参加される兄弟たちのためにお祈りください。

CP1 For God's satisfaction, consecrate all I have and all I am as a burnt offering on the altar

IA For the recovery of the house we need the recovery of the altar: **1a** Before we can have the church life, we must put everything on the altar.

B We must put all that we have, all that we are, and all that we can do on the altar for God's satisfaction; this is the start of the church life. [Ezra3:2](#) ...they built the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings upon it, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.

According to Ezra 3, they did not offer anything except the burnt offering upon the altar. They did not offer the sin offering, the trespass offering, the peace offering, or any other offering...We all know that the burnt offering is for God's satisfaction. The sin offering is for sins, the trespass offering is for our trespasses, the peace offering is for our peace, the meal offering is for our satisfaction, but the burnt offering is for God's satisfaction. To recover the house is for God's satisfaction. The house is not for us to be forgiven; it is not for us to have peace with God; it is not for our enjoyment; it is wholly for God's satisfaction. Therefore, we must offer nothing but the burnt offering. In other words, we must put all that we have, all that we are, and all that we can do on the altar for God's satisfaction. This is the start of the church life. Before we can have the church life, we must put everything on the altar. The young people must offer their college degrees and their scholarships, and we all must offer all that we have and are on the altar for God's satisfaction. Otherwise, it is impossible to recover God's house.

If we really mean business with the Lord, we must offer everything on the altar...We should not come back to Jerusalem and yet still maintain our life just as it was in Babylon. The life in Jerusalem must be absolutely for the Lord's interest. The life in the Lord's recovery must be absolutely for the recovery of the building up of the churches.

[Application to young people, collage students, new ones](#)

Testimony 1 I have decided to participate in Full-Time Training in Tokyo starting this April. At first, I was wondering what I was going to do after graduation. I had failed the graduate school's recommendation entrance examination, I was not confident that I would pass the general entrance examination, and had not been looking

for a job at all. But I suddenly thought, "Maybe I should go to the training." This was completely for my own good. However, after attending the welcome meeting and the short-term training, I changed my mind more and more, and later, even after I was accepted to graduate school for general admission, my desire to go to training did not change! The life of training is very hard and I have many concerns about whether I can really continue for two years. But I am thankful that I can take Christ as my burnt offering, experience Him, and offer fully to God.

Testimony 2 I came to Kobe for Gospel Propagation as a full time trainee from Taiwan after the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011. After the earthquake, the hearts of Japanese people were opened and many Japanese people were saved. When I prayed that the Lord would raise up someone to shepherd the saved new ones so that they would be nurtured and become remaining fruit, the Lord spoke to me inside, "Isn't that person you?" After graduating from the training, I intended to return to my country and find a job, so I told the Lord, "I cannot do it because I cannot speak Japanese." However, after rejecting the feeling from the Lord, the inner flow stopped and I lost my joy. A few days later, during a private prayer time with the Lord, I sang a hymn from the Chinese supplement book 651. "I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord, O'er mountain, or plain, or sea; I'll say what You want me to say, dear Lord, I'll be what You want me to be". After singing this hymn, I offered my future to the Lord and prayed, "Oh Lord Jesus! I do not know my future path, but I consecrate to You! If You want me to go to Kobe, I will go. The life of gospel and shepherding does not end after two years of training, but I will live the life of gospel and shepherding for the rest of my life. I will consecrate myself for Your interest!" After praying to the Lord in this way, the inner flow returned and I felt that God was pleased. I took the Lord as a burnt offering and offered it to God. I thank the Lord that after graduating from training, I was able to come to Kobe and live out a life of gospel and shepherding with the brothers and sisters. I thank the Lord for blessing me in each area of my life: education, employment, marriage, and full-time service in Kobe.

CP2 Enjoying the humanity of Christ, who is absolutely for God, as a burnt offering, and consecrate yourself to the Lord.

II "They began to offer up burnt offerings to Jehovah" (Ezra 3:6) **C** The Hebrew word translated "burnt offering" literally means "that which goes up" and denotes something that is ascending to God; this ascending refers to Christ. **1** The only thing that can ascend to God from the earth is the life lived by Christ, for He is the unique person to live a life that is absolutely for God. **A** Christ as our burnt offering is completely for God, absolutely for God. **B** Whatever the Lord Jesus was, whatever He spoke, and whatever He did was absolutely for God. **2** By laying our hands on Christ as the burnt offering, we are joined to Him. Lev. 1:4 And he shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering.

We need Christ first as our burnt offering, because our first problem with God is not a matter of trespasses but a matter of not being for God. Whether we have trespassed or not, we are still not much for God. We may have done nothing amiss, but we are still not for God. Though I may not be wrong with this person or that person, I am wrong with God because I am still not absolutely for Him. So our first need is Christ as the burnt offering.

By laying our hands on Christ as our burnt offering, we are joined to Him...Such a union, such an identification, indicates that all our weaknesses, defects, shortcomings, and faults become His and that all His virtues become ours. This is not exchange—it is union....The thought that we may enjoy Christ as the offerings is hidden in the book of Leviticus. For example, we may enjoy Christ as the burnt offering. We cannot be absolute for God, but Christ as the burnt offering is absolute for Him. Therefore, we should take Christ as the burnt offering and enjoy Him as the burnt offering. To have this experience and enjoyment of Christ we need to pray, saying, "Lord Jesus, You are a wonderful person. You are the consummated Spirit with me all the time, and You are with me to be my burnt offering. Lord, I cannot satisfy God, but You can satisfy Him. I cannot be absolute for God, but You have always been and still are absolute for Him. Now, Lord Jesus, I take You as my burnt offering."

Application to business persons, graduate students
Testimony When I was a student, I read "Christ as the reality" in English and was enlightened and

supplied with two points: "The first problem of man before God is not offence, but that man is not absolute for God," and further, "The absolute humanity for God is Christ, and He is the reality of the burnt offering." Because I knew that no matter how much I squeezed, I was not 100% absolutely genuinely for God. The impurity that always remained bothered me. But after reading this book, I was released and I prayed, "Praise You, Lord Jesus. You are the One who absolutely, 100%, lived for God. You are the reality of the burnt offering. The burnt offering is an offering that is entirely burnt for God's satisfaction alone. No matter what I did for God, there was always a part of me that remained for myself, and no matter how hard I tried, I could never be 100% and absolutely for the Lord. But I am grateful that you are here, a person who lived 100% for God. I lose hope in myself and take You as the burnt offering."

At that time, I remembered Hymn 841.

1. Thou art all my life, Lord, In me Thou dost live;
With Thee all God's fulness Thou to me dost give.

By Thy holy nature I am sanctified,
By Thy resurrection, Vict'ry is supplied.

5. I would give myself, Lord, Fully unto Thee,
That Thy heart's desire Be fulfilled in me.

I no more would struggle To myself reform,
Thus in me to hinder What Thou wouldst perform.

6. I would cease completely From my efforts vain,
Let Thy life transform me, Full release to gain;

Build me up with others Till in us Thou see

Thy complete expression Glorifying Thee. Especially in stanza 5 and 6, I found that when we experience the cross and end our work, we can take Christ as our burnt offering. This experience helped me a lot. Then, when serving the Lord, I first took Christ as my burnt offering and began to serve Him in His humanity, so that I could serve Him in peace, in His presence, and in His blessing, with no condemnation from conscience.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, my first problem with God is that I am not absolute for Him. But You lived for God absolutely as a man on earth. Christ is the reality of the burnt offering. Only Christ can satisfy God. Therefore, I take and enjoy Christ as the burnt offering, through the process of the cross and union with Him, and I consecrate myself thoroughly to the Lord.