

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

15

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE... ON THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

So far we have seen that in the earthly sanctuary, the sins of the people were removed from them and placed upon the animal that was sacrificed. Eventually, the sins were transferred, by the blood of the sacrifice, to the sanctuary, where they were sprinkled before the veil (on the altar located in front of the dividing curtain). At this point the sprinkled blood remained a record of those confessed and forgiven sins until the cleansing. Once a year there was a special service for the removal of those sins from the sanctuary, cleansing it of every record of sin. This special service of cleansing took place on the Day of Atonement.

Daniel 8:14,17,26 brings to view a cleansing of the sanctuary to take place at the time of the end. As discussed in lesson 12, the prophecy reveals that the time of the end began in 1844. It then follows that this world is now in the antitypical Day of Atonement. But what does that mean for us today? Let us now study what God is trying to tell us in the "type" service of the Day of Atonement and its relevance to the "antitype" now in progress.

In the previous few lessons we have already established the relationship between the heavenly and the earthly sanctuary. The earthly sanctuary with its service was a pattern, or copy, of the heavenly. Since there was a cleansing of the earthly sanctuary, with its requirements for the removal of sin from the life, the antitype, the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, is of grave proportions to those who are living at this time. Just as the negligent on the Day of Atonement were cutoff and received not of the forgiveness for sin, so those who are indifferent now, on this antitypical Day of Atonement, will not partake of His offering and will be forever lost.

Let us review the state of man after his fall from Christlike purity into sin and then examine what is accomplished on the antitypical Day of Atonement. We shall see that a transformation takes place in the heart of the converted sinner. As he fell in this life, by the power of the Spirit of Christ, the sinner may cast off his sinful behaviour and have a new character. In this life, the soul may be restored to again become Christlike.

On that day shall the priest make an atonement for you to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all of your sins before the Lord.... and *ye shall afflict your souls.* *Leviticus 16:30,31*

Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts, ye double minded. *Be afflicted* and mourn and weep [over your sin].... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He shall lift you up. *James 4:6-10*

1. What was man's original condition at creation?

Genesis 1:27,31 _____

Note: When God created man, he was faultless, as he was made after the image (which includes character) of God. When Adam had a son, he was in the likeness of his father, a fallen man (Gen.5:3), so sin was propagated (see lesson 1 and lesson 6 page 5).

2. What was God's purpose in man's creation?

Genesis 1:26; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:4; 1Peter 2:9 _____

Note: As we read these texts, ask the question, did God make man to be like Satan, or to be like Himself and reflect His beautiful image and character?

3. Instead of being a reflection of God, what happened to man's nature once he disobeyed God?

Jeremiah 17:9 _____

4. What was man's attitude towards God's authority and rule?

Romans 8:7, compare Romans 3:9-18 _____

Note: If man was to ever again be a part of the heavenly family, he must have a different mind, one that again delights to serve God and do His will.

5. In Ephesians 3:9, Paul refers to the "fellowship of the mystery." What is this mystery?

Colossians 1:27 _____

6. What was Christ's attitude towards God's law?

Matthew 5:17 _____

John 8:29 _____

Psalm 40:8 _____

7. When the believer receives Christ, what happens to him?

Galatians 2:20 _____

Note: In John 12:24 Jesus put it a little differently: He said that unless a corn of wheat fell to the ground and died, it remained alone, but if it died, it brought forth much fruit. He said it was likewise with us: those who love their life (this present life) would lose it, but those who hate their life (not make this world their all consuming interest) would have eternal life. We must be so dissatisfied with ourselves as we are, that we are willing to die to self, that the life of Jesus may be made manifest in us (Gal.2:20). With this we shall bring forth much fruit -- the fruits of the Spirit (Gal.5:22-24). This is possible only if the carnal man has died and Christ lives in the soul temple, the mind, where sin once reigned (Eph.2:1-10; Rom.8:6-11).

8. What is the result of Christ's dwelling in us?

2Corinthians 5:17 _____

9. Whose mind does this new creature have?

1Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5 _____

10. Whose life will our life then resemble?

1Peter 2:21,22; 1John 2:6 _____

11. What is this process of becoming Christlike called?

1Thessalonians 5:23; 1Corinthians 1:30; 6:11; 1Peter 3:15 _____

Note: "Sanctification" is holiness, saintliness, consecration, to be set apart from common things. To meet this high standard, sanctification must embrace the whole of man: --- body - physical; soul - mental or mind.

12. How does sanctification take place in the heart of man?

John 17:17 _____

Ephesians 5:26,27 _____

James 1:18 _____

Note: What we feed our minds on is what we ultimately become. By beholding we become changed into that image (2Cor.3:18). It is no marvel that to receive the mind of Christ, we should become filled with His word.

In the Scripture, both the process and the finished product are referred to as sanctification. For this reason, a believer may be spoken of as holy and sanctified, though not having fully attained to the final product. The reason for this is, that sanctification is not the work of a day, or a year, but of a lifetime (2Cor.3:18). This work begins at conversion and continues through life. Each victory gained through the power of the indwelling Christ hastens the process of total sanctification. This continues until the converted sinner overcomes on every point of unchristlike character, then, when Satan comes to him, Satan can find nothing -- not one point on which this soul, anchored

in Christ, will respond to temptations. Such power remains with the soul that clings to Christ and is conscious of its weakness and need of Divine aid. He is then complete in Christ and stands without fault before the throne (Revelation 14:4,5; Jude 24). Christ can then place His seal upon him and it is safe to return this one to his place as a part of the heavenly family. So long as the sinner continues his decision for Christ, depending on Christ's power to accomplish the work, living up to all the light that he knows, God views this one as being complete (Col.2:10; Phil.3:15,16; 1Kings 8:61).

