

EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

Group Bible Study 6

VERSES TO READ:

John 1:29

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 3:14

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

Romans 8:3

3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 John 1:5-9

5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him

and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

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.

8 If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Read Lev. 4:1-35; 6:25-27

DISCOVERY PORTION:

SIN AND SINS

The New Testament deals with the problem of sin by using both the word sin in singular and the word sins in plural. Sin refers to the indwelling sin, which came through Adam into mankind from Satan (Rom. 5:12). It is dealt with in the second section of Romans, 5:12 to 8:13 (with the exception of 7:5, where sins is mentioned). Sins refer to the sinful deeds, the fruits of the indwelling sin, which are dealt with in the first section of Romans, 1:18 to 5:11.

Satan, the devil, is the source of sin. Through man's fall Satan's personality became one with man's soul, and Satan was taken into man's body to be sin working as evil in man's fleshly members. Because the

devil is the father of sinners, the father of liars, the sinners are children of the devil. We were brought forth in iniquity, conceived in sin in Adam, and born with the poison of the serpent, making us serpents, the brood of vipers. Sin is the evil nature of Satan, the evil one, who, having injected himself into man through Adam's fall, has now become the very sinful nature dwelling, acting, and working as a law in fallen man.

WE ARE JUST SIN ITSELF

At the time we repented to take the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we did not realize that we were so sinful. We may have realized that we were not so good and that we had done many wrong things, but we never realized that we are just sin itself. Whether we intend to do something sinful or we do not intend to do something sinful, we are just sin. Therefore, the word "unwittingly" is used in Leviticus 4. "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin unwittingly against any of the commandments of the Lord concerning things which ought not to be done, ... let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the Lord for a sin offering" (Lev. 4:1-3).

For this word “unwittingly” we could also use “unwillingly,” “ignorantly,” “unaware,” or “inadvertently.” Regardless of whether we have the intention of hating others or not, eventually we will hate them. Whether we are willing to lose our temper or not, we will simply lose it. We may not even like to be proud, but we will certainly be proud. This is what Paul is talking about in Romans 7. He says that the things he hates to do, that is what he does. He does not want to do it, yet he does it. Perhaps in the morning we make a decision not to gossip at all that day. But during the day we gossip more than ever. We make a decision not to criticize others anymore, yet an hour later we are very critical of someone. Paul says in Romans 7:17, “Now it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells in me.” It is not I, but sin.

We may think that we are doing a wonderful deed, but eventually we may discover that what we had done was terrible. At the time we did it, we thought it was wonderful. But it turned out to be awful. What does this prove? It simply proves that within us there is something called sin, and this sin is just ourselves. Therefore, we need Christ as our sin offering. Within every drop of our blood and every fiber of our muscle is sin. We are simply constituted of sin. And because we are sin, we need a sin offering. Praise the

Lord that Christ is our sin offering! Second Corinthians 5:21 says that Christ was made sin for us.

CHRIST AS OUR SIN OFFERING

The sin offering (Lev. 4:1-35) signifies that Christ was made sin for us in order that through His death on the cross sin might be condemned. Through incarnation the Word, who is God, became flesh, in the likeness of the flesh of sin, the likeness of a fallen man. Although Christ was a fallen man only in likeness, when He was on the cross, God counted that likeness as real. Since sin, the old man, Satan, the world, and the ruler of the world are all one with the flesh, when Christ died in the flesh, sin was condemned (Rom. 8:3), the old man was crucified (6:6), Satan was destroyed (Heb. 2:14), the world was judged, and the ruler of the world was cast out. Hence, through Christ's death in the flesh all negative things were dealt with. Satan's evil nature in man's flesh was judged on the cross through the death of Christ in the form of a serpent so that the believers may have eternal life. As the One who did not know sin, Christ was made sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

THE BLOOD OF THE SIN OFFERING

The sin offering had to be killed by the presenter on the altar in the presence of God. In this offering, the most important thing mentioned in detail is the blood. This means that whenever we come to have fellowship with God, we must do it by the merit of this blood. It is by this blood that our prayer and fellowship are accepted. When God sees the blood, he realizes that he has been redeemed and fully accepted by God. All of His demands and requirements have been fulfilled by Christ. So the presenter is fully at peace. As we are enjoying the Triune God in the divine fellowship (Chapter 1 of 1 John), we realize that we still have sin inwardly and that we have committed sins outwardly. We then receive the cleansing of the precious blood. This becomes a cycle. The more we are cleansed, the more we enter into fellowship with the Triune God; the more we enjoy this fellowship, the more we are enlightened; and the more we are enlightened, the more we realize that we are sinful, even sin itself. It is by this cycle that we are delivered and saved from our self. Actually, we are delivered and saved from sin, from the flesh, from Satan, from the world, from the prince of the world, and from the power struggle. The more we enjoy Christ, the less power struggle we will have with God. Eventually we will give every inch to Him.