

Dig Deep: The Altar of Commitment

Psalms 141: 2 my prayers rise up as incense

Rev. 5 & 8 speaks of the prayers on the saints being presented as incense before the throne.

Romans 12: present your bodies as a sacrifice

John 4: 23 worship in spirit and in truth

- OBEDIENCE WILL INITIATE THINGS
- COMMITMENT WILL SUSTAIN THINGS,
- ZEAL WILL PERFORM THINGS

Joshua 8:30-35 Joshua builds an altar at Mt. Ebal

A return to the command of Deuteronomy 27

A reiteration of the blessing and curses of Deuteronomy 30

Three trademarks of the altar of commitment:

The eternal scale, The authority of the word, Participation and progress

- COMMITMENT ON AN ETERNAL SCALE

He was here before you; His word was here before you; He has allowed us to be a part of an eternal story, and we get to play a sacred part.

- A lasting covenant with an eternal God must be permanent and ageless (limewash established it permanently)

Build the altar of uncut stones/whitewashed with lime; Deut. 27:..... “And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime. You shall write on them all the words of this law... Therefore it shall be, when you have crossed over the Jordan, that on Mount Ebal you shall set up these stones... And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones; you shall not use an iron tool on them. You shall build with whole stones the altar of the LORD your God.” (Deuteronomy 27:2–3, 4–6)

- A lasting covenant with an eternal God must come from humility (whole uncut stones that had not been crafted by man).

Your commitment must come FROM God, FOR God. Romans 11: 33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?” 35 “Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?” 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

- A lasting covenant with an eternal God will be absolute (blessing and cursing; life and death; fruitful or barren).. both **PUBLIC** and PERMANENT

- COMMITMENT TO THE WORDS OF GOD

- Write the law in completion
- Read the law before EVERYONE
- Writing and Reading: thorough and careful and dependable, multiple avenues to receive
- The stranger is involved. To include the seeker and the stranger is to maintain a common reverence, not live by a common excuse or compromise.

- COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATION AND PROGRESS IN THE LORD

- This was part of possession of the Land.
- This was part of moving beyond the battle and walking in the victory.
- This was a part of remembering the curse but also progressing in the blessing. The altar was laid on the mountain of the curse because the curse was eliminated and the blessing was established! You cannot move into a place of blessing until you have come into agreement with what God has called accursed and allowed Him to establish blessing instead. That is the completion of the judgement of God and the freedom of the blessing of God!

NO EXCUSES!

“For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire... But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God... to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.” (Hebrews 12:18, 22, 24)

ALL OF THIS TAKES A COMMITMENT TO DIG DEEP! IT REQUIRES A SINCERE HEART AND AN INCREASING KNOWLEDGE OF HIS TRUTH