

“Why the World is So Messed Up”

Sermon Notes: Leviticus #2

Review: Our study of Leviticus began with a sermon entitled, “The G _____ Begins with the H _____ of God” and the quote, “*Leviticus was and is one of the most important books in the OT. It not only represents the entire religious system of ancient Israel, but it also lays the theological framework for the NT teaching about the atoning work of Jesus Christ.*”

(Allen P. Ross, Holiness to the Lord)

Today’s Study:

A. Remembering Leviticus

1. Leviticus is the third book of Moses. The setting is at the foot of Mt. Sinai about a year after the Exodus from Egypt.
2. Leviticus introduces key theological themes: atonement, holiness, purification, sin, uncleanness, and the priesthood.

B. Today’s Key Theme: So, why exactly **IS** the world so messed up?

1. Why is sin such a problem? “*Shalom is God’s design for creation and redemption; sin is blamable human v _____ of these great realities and therefore an affront to their Architect and Builder.*” (Cornelius Plantinga, Not the Way It’s Supposed to Be, 16)
2. Because God is JUST, sin must be a _____ for (Rom. 3:21-26)(“that He might be j _____”)
3. What are the five key offerings in Leviticus about? (chapters 1-7)
 - a. The Burnt Offering: Offered morning and evening for a _____; signified surrender to God and a _____ by Him. Cf. 6:8-13
 - b. The Grain Offering: Symbolized grateful d _____ to God in light of His gifts; a small amount was burned & the rest belonged to the priests.
 - c. The Peace Offering: Shared as a joyful c _____ of restored relationship.
 - d. The Sin Offering: God’s gracious provision to cover sin. (4:1-3)
 - e. The Trespass (Purification) Offering: God’s gracious provision to cover things undone or previously unnoticed. (5:1-2)

C. And all of this leads us to CHRIST! READ Hebrews 10:1-4 and 11-14

1. Sin is a BIG deal and because God is holy He cannot simply ignore it.
2. Animal sacrifices c _____ sin, but could not pay for it.
3. Only Christ, the perfect sacrifice, could **take away** sin by His death on the cross!

Applying God’s Word: Let’s Talk!

- How do you see the gospel revealed in our study of Leviticus this weekend?
- Galatians 3:21-25 tells us one of God’s key purposes for the OT law. What is it?
- As we celebrate communion, let’s return to Romans 3:21-26

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Leviticus, Romans 3, Galatians 3, and Hebrews 10

“All the sacrifices that were given to Israel find their fulfillment in the death of the Son of God on the cross – and that was the plan all along.”

“The church offers no animal sacrifices because the sacrifice has been made once and for all.”
“...the foundation of the gospel is here in the Book of Leviticus.”

(Allen P. Ross)

Getting Acquainted (15 minutes)

What is one of your earliest memories of “getting caught” doing something wrong as a kid?

Talking It Through (20)

- Remember the definition of sin given on Sunday? How does “breaking Shalom” help us understand sin? (*For all of you “Lord of the Rings” fans, can you describe for everyone else what the shire was like at the beginning of the first movie?*)
- Review the list of the five offerings from Leviticus. Which one stands out to you and why?
- Take a look at Romans 8:20-22. How does the text describe the impact of sin on all of creation?

Going Deeper (15 minutes)

- Review the secondary texts from Sunday: Romans 3:21-26, Galatians 3:21-25, and Hebrews 10:1-4 and 11-14. What is the connection of each of them with Leviticus?
- WHY the OT emphasis on sacrifices? What was the purpose *then* and what is the purpose of those texts now for a Christian?
- In Matthew 5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39, and 44 Jesus says, “But I say to you...” In each case He is pointing out that the intent of God’s law was always *inward*, not simply *outward*. How does that make my load of sin even greater?

Taking It Home (10 minutes)

- In what ways does an increased understanding of OT sacrifices & sin help you appreciate Christ and the gospel?

Time to PRAY (10 minutes)

Take a few minutes to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then find a couple of volunteers to pray for those needs.