

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Lord's Day Morning

Date 9th October 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymns ps 32:1-5 Martyrdom 84, 73 Kilmarnock.

Read Exodus 27:16-17 Text Exodus 27:16-17

Series – The Tabernacle series (3) Title The Gate

Having spent time in the presence of God upon Mount Sinai, Moses received the law of God to show **Accountability before God**. Then He also received the pattern for Tabernacle to teach **Approach unto God**.

Therefore, God in giving His law in written form provided a way whereby sins can be forgiven by faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Only when sin is exposed will there be forgiveness of sin.

The tabernacle was God's object lesson to teach such a gospel truth.

When the Tabernacle was finished, the children of Israel encamped on all four sides of the tabernacle, they would see a white linen fence surrounding the outer court.

The white linen fence pointed the people in one direction.

There was only way of entrance into the court yard and that was situated at the east side of the Tabernacle.

This meant there was no other way to enter inside the tabernacle court from the north, south, and west side, the fence only lead the people in their location to the east side, where the only gate was located.

The word **gate** means **an entrance**.

In fact the entrance was not at corner of the east side but the in the centre of the fence on east side.

The fence spoke of the Holiness of God as reflected in His law, and in doing so exposed sin in all its unholiness and unrighteousness before God.

Therefore, the lesson taught that men and woman are naturally covered in the filthy garments of their sin, and are unable to approach God. **Habakkuk 1:13** states about God's holiness "***Thou art of purer eyes, than to behold evil and canst not look on iniquity.***"

God in His wisdom provided a perfect covering or perfect righteousness for sinners to enter His presence, and Jesus Christ is the covering and perfect righteousness that sinners need for acceptance and approach to God.

Just as fence lead to the only entrance into the tabernacle to meet with God, so the law of God leads sinners to Christ the only entrance into heaven to approach God.

God used the tabernacle as a whole and each part to teach there is a Saviour for sinners.

Jesus Christ is gate or entrance into the presence of God.

IFRIST THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GATE

V9 "And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle..."

Verse 16 "for the gate of the court shall be an hanging of twenty cubits of blue, and of purple, and scarlet and white, fine twined linen wrought with needle work."

While the gate of the Tabernacle functioned the same as any gate of entrance, **yet it was not made as any other gate.**

This is not a gate that we would have in mind. ***Usually a gate for entrance into a garden or driveway is made of metal***

or wood. We know in the Tabernacle that wood and metal is used for making much of the furniture.

However, the gate into the court was made of cloth materials, “**for the gate of the court shall be an hanging.**”

The word hanging in the original reads **a screen**. There shall be a screen woven **or embroidery**.

The idea was a covering or an entrance curtain, and so the gate was a covering of coloured materials of blue, purple, scarlet and white.

These were woven together by needle work.

notice, verse 16 “**for the gate of the court...**” now let me stop there, for these words are vital.

Remember, God has given the pattern to Moses, and God’s instruction is **for the gate of the court**, not the gates of court.

Furthermore, the gate would only be located at the eastern side of the fence.

God did not send Moses on a survey to see if there could be another place more suitable in the fence of the tabernacle for another gate and other way.

Remember, the tribes are spread out, 3 tribes on all 4 sides, outside the tabernacle fence.

The point is, there was not a gate at each side so each tribe or worshipper could have their own entrance into the tabernacle.

No, they all came the same way, through the one and only gate, into the court of tabernacle.

God was telling Moses when constructing the gate, there is only to be one gate to teach the people, there is only one way of approach unto God, one covering for sin, and all men must come the same way, not their own way or many ways.

I will repeat this so many times throughout this series, since the tabernacle is all about Christ then the gate always speaks of Christ, who is the only way whereby man can approach God.

Therefore, when Paul preached at Corinth He said on **1 Cor 2:2** ***“for I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”***

Paul, in writing to the believers at Galatia made this very point to them, because false teachers had sneaked into the churches, to spread their perverted message and trouble the minds of God’s people.

Paul named it in **Gal 1:6** ***another gospel***. The word **another**, is **heteros**, meaning **strange, or different**. Paul is saying the message of the false teachers is a strange gospel, it’s teaching is false, it is a different message, not the same message I have preached unto you.

Paul instructed in **verse 9** ***“I say now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you, than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”*** It is not a message from God, and so it falls under His displeasure and destruction.

Listen the words of the Saviour Himself, Jesus Christ said in **John 10:9** ***“I am the door, by me if any man enter in, he shall be save and shall go in and out and find, pasture.”***

The Saviour is using the door as an object lesson, you enter a

room through a door, and so He is saying you approach God, you enter heaven by or through me.

John 14:6 “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me.*”

The repeated word **the** emphasises, **Christ is thee way, thee truth, thee life.**

In other words, Jesus Christ is not one of many ways to approach God. Nor is He one of the better ways to heaven. Christ is not an option to try, or an alternative.

Take heed, **God is teaching, that Jesus Christ, His Son, is the only way, the only door, the only gate, for sinners to approach God and find acceptance with Him.**

II SECOND, THE COLOURS OF THE GATE

Verse 16 “*for the gate of the court shall be an hanging of twenty cubits of blue, and of purple, and scarlet and white, fine twined linen wrought with needle work.*”

The colours spoke of Jesus Christ in His person and work, as the only mediator between God and men.

They would learn of that promised Saviour, is the Prophet, Priest and King of His redeemed.

The colour **blue**, speaks of **heaven**. Paul named Christ in **1 Cor 15:47** as “*The Lord from heaven.*” Christ in speaking to the Jews used another object lesson this time bread.

He said in **John 6:33** “*for the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*”

(**v35** “**Jesus said unto them I am the bread of life, he that cometh to me shall never hunger....**”) Only Christ can meet the spiritual need of man.

John 6:38 “**for I came down from heaven not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me.**”

Heb 8:1-2 “**...we have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the majesty in the heavens. A minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched and not man.**”

He is our prophet to expound the word and of God, in matters concerning salvation.

The colour **Purple** speaks of **Royalty**. Purple was the colour for the late Queen's Elizabeth's jubilee, the Elizabeth tube line is purple.

When Christ was mocked by the soldiers He was as a king. We read **John 19:2** “**they put on Him a purple robe**”, **Matthew 27:29** “**and when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head and a reed in His right hand, and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying Hail, King of the Jews.**”

Believer, Christ is our King, to reign and rule in our lives. We worship and serve the King with gladness, As King He conquers all His and our enemies.

The colour of **Scarlet** which is a dark red colour, speaks of **Suffering**. The Hebrew word for **scarlet** also means **worm**.

This was a particular kind of worm, named the *coccus* worm, it used to make a scarlet, red colour. The worm was crushed giving this red dye.

This word **worm**, and its meaning is used of Christ in **Ps 22** a Psalm of prophesying Christ's sufferings on the Cross.

Ps 22:6, "***I am a worm and no man.***" or we can read "***I am a scarlet thing.***" **Isa 53** also prophesied about 700 years before the cross wrote in **Isa 53:5** "***He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquity...***".

Verse 10 "***Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him,***" The word **bruise** means **to crush**. ***It pleased the Lord to crush Him.*** Christ upon the Cross suffered agony for sinners by being **bruised, crushed**, as their substitute in their place. Having all their iniquity laid upon Him, enduring the wrath of God against sin.

No wonder **Ps 22:1** starts "***My God my God why hast thou forsaken me, why art thou so far from helping me, and from the word of my roaring?***" He was forsaken of God, that sinners who trust in Him, would never be forsaken of God, and thereby be eternally secure. Christ was crushed in His sufferings.

The colour scarlet points to Him as the suffering Saviour.

As our Priest, He offered Himself up as a sacrifice to suffer and then to enter heaven with His own blood to appear on the presence of God for us.

The colour of **white fine twined linen** speaks of **Righteousness**. Jesus Christ is **Jer 23:6** "***...called the LORD our righteousness.***"

1 Peter 1:19 "***a lamb without spot.***" **1 Peter 2:22** "***Who did no sin....***" **1 John 3:5** "***...and in Him is no sin.***" **Heb 7:22**

“..holy harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners...” [Rev 19:11](#) “and I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse, and He that sat upon him was called faithful and true, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.”

The one who would be the Saviour of sinners, must be holy, without sin, absolutely perfect.

The colours of the gate, represented Jesus Christ in His perfect person and redeeming work. He is our sufficient Saviour. He has blotted out every sin. He has paid it all.

When Simon saw Christ in the Temple, He proclaimed in [Luke 2:30](#) **“mine eyes have seen thy Salvation.”** To have salvation is to have Jesus Christ, the gift of eternal life.

Unsaved one, come at once, to faith in Christ, [Isaiah 1:18](#) **“... though your sins be a scarlet, they shall be as a white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”**

Miss Christ you miss the only entrance into God's presence.

III THIRD, THE COLUMNS OF THE GATE

[Verse 16](#) “and their pillars shall be four and their sockets four.”

These four pillars along with the sockets supported or upheld the coloured hangings or the entrance to the court of the tabernacle.

It is interesting to note that these four pillars are the same, unlike the materials which are different colours,

the Pillars are in agreement, they support each other in holding up the only gate.

In directing our minds to Christ, we are drawn to the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

These four pillars or gospels are in agreement, in upholding the person and work of Christ.

There are no contradictions, between the gospels.

It is true that each gospel writer covers the life of Christ from a different viewpoint but all come together in perfect agreement showing forth that Christ is the only way for sinners to be saved.

Since the four colours of material speak of Christ, so they are also upheld by the four pillars picturing the Gospels.

For instance, as the colour **blue** speaks of **heaven**, and So **John writes** of Christ to focus upon Christ the Son of God who became man. **John 1:1** *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God."* **V14** *"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."*

The colour **purple** speaks of **Royalty**, **Matthew** writes to emphasise **Christ is King**. **Matthew 2** the wise men said in **verse 2** *"where is He that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen His star in the east and are come to worship Him."*

The colour **scarlet** speaks of **Sufferings**, **Mark** writes from the viewpoint of Christ the **suffering Servant**. **Mark 10:45** *"... the Son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give His life a ransom for the many."*

The colour of **white linen** speaks of **Righteousness, perfection**. Luke writes from the view of Christ the **perfect**

Son of Man “**Luke 1:35** “***The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.***” The words **holy thing** means **holy one**. That Holy one. This means The Holy Spirit **overshadow** or **came upon Mary to sanctify her**, and take of the substance of her womb and perform the great miracle of the conception of the sinless humanity of Christ.

The four Gospels, can be summed up on **John 20:31** “***these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through His name.***”

The only gate of the tabernacle taught that Jesus is only entrance to approach and find acceptance with God.