

Sermon #25 — *Discovering Christ in Leviticus*

Title: **“THE THING WHICH THE
LORD COMMANDED TO BE DONE”**

Text: Leviticus 8:1-36

Subject: *Reverencing the Word of God*

Date: Tuesday Evening — November 13, 2018

Readings: *Lindsay Campbell and David Burge*

Introduction:

I want to begin my message with a statement made by David, a statement made by a man after God’s own heart, a statement recorded in the Book of God by divine inspiration. It is found in Psalm 138:2. — *“Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name!”* — Have you ever noticed that?

(Psalms 138:2) “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

For many, many years, as I read that statement, I thought, “How can that be? What does that mean? Surely, it does not mean what it appears to mean.”

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But the fact is, it means exactly what it appears to mean.

Proposition: Nothing is more important to our God than his Word.

What is more important to you than your word? Your word is but the reflection of you. “*Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*” We reveal what we really are by our speech. — The same is true of our God.

- His Word reveals who he is and what he is.
- His Word makes his character known.
- His Word declares his will.
- It is only by his Word that we know him.
- It is only by his Word that he speaks to us, leads us, comforts us, and teaches us.

If we honor God’s Word, we honor him. If we dishonor his Word, we dishonor him. David, being a man after God’s own heart, understood how highly

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God had magnified his Word. — “*Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*” — Oh, that we might learn this and learn to honor God’s holy Word.

Because he has so greatly honored his Word, the Lord God has given special sanctions concerning it (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18-19). **We dare not presume to...**

- Take Anything from It.
- Add Anything to It.

(Deuteronomy 4:2) “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

(Deuteronomy 12:32) “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”

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(Proverbs 30:6) “Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

(Revelation 22:18-19) “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: (19) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”

With those things in mind, let’s read **Leviticus 8:5** together.

- Chapters 1-7 Sacrifices of Worship
- Chapters 8-9 The Consecration of the Priests

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(Leviticus 8:5) “And Moses said unto the congregation, This *is* the thing which the LORD commanded to be done.”

I take the words of verse 5 as the title of my message.

— **“THE THING WHICH THE LORD
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I want us to put ourselves into this passage. Let us now, as we have come together in the house of God, seeking to hear his Word and worship him, through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ our great High Priest.

GOD’S HOUSE

1st — **Like Israel of old, we have come to the house of God.** — As the children of Israel were gathered together in one place, at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, with Aaron, the holy anointing oil, the sin offering, and the rams and unleavened bread

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for offerings of thanksgiving and praise, symbols of consecration to God, so we have come here.

- As the assembly of God’s saints meet for worship, we come together as *“the house of God, which is the church of the living God”* (1 Timothy 3:15).
- We meet together in the house of God with the Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, our sin atoning Sacrifice, our Altar, having upon us the holy anointing oil, God the Holy Spirit, and bring our offerings of praise, thanksgiving, and consecration to our God (Hebrews 12:22-24).

(Hebrews 12:22-24) “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, (23) To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, (24) And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to

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the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of Abel.*”

How blessed we are to have this great privilege!
This is our Bethel, the House of God. — *“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD!”*

(Psalms 84:1) “How amiable *are* thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!”

(Psalms 27:4) “One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.”

ONE BODY — How different things are in the house of God than in the places where Baal is adored. — **Here the whole assembly comes together as one, all upon the same footing.** We

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come to God as blood-washed sinners saved by grace. There are no big dogs, or little dogs here, just dogs!

SAME PRIVILEGES — All here enjoy the same privileges and have the same responsibilities. Like Israel of old, we have all come here to one place, at the altar of God (Christ), to behold him (our Divinely Appointed Mediator and Priest), who has been entrusted with the everlasting care of our souls.

SAME PURPOSE — Each one, the lowest and the highest, the richest and the poorest, the most learned and the most unlearned, the strongest and the weakest, the most pure and the most polluted, the oldest and the youngest, the fathers, the young men, and the babes, the men and the women, each one has his place, being “*fitly joined together*” (Ephesians 4:16). All are standing upon the same ground. — The holy ground of blood atonement! All have come for the same reason. — To gaze upon God’s High Priest,

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the sacrifice which he offered, and the gorgeous robes with which he was adorned as he did his work for us!

SAME NEEDS — And we have come here, each with our own specific, peculiar needs. The God of Israel would have us see and see clearly that each of our individual needs are supplied by our great High Priest. — **Look yonder, needy soul of mine! What need do I have that is not fully supplied in that Man who stands in the Holy Place?**

- His blood is our atonement.
- His perfection is our righteousness.
- His shoulders are our strength.
- His wisdom directs our lives.
- His heart is touched with the feeling of our infirmities.
- His bounty is our supply.
- His power is omnipotence.
- His faithfulness is sure.
- His grace is abundant.

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- His acceptance is indisputable.

Every aspect of our Priest’s gorgeous attire is designed by God to tell us and assure us that he is both qualified and able to meet our souls’ every need.

- He wears a coat of blue, and purple, and scarlet, interwoven with strands of beaten gold! — **Blue** is the color of heaven above. — **Purple** is the color of royalty. — **Scarlet** represents blood. — The **beaten gold** is God in our flesh.
- His golden girdle is faithfulness!
- Upon his very heart he carries our names!
- In him is all Light and Perfection!
- Upon his miter there is the golden, holy crown, inscribed with “*HOLINESS TO THE LORD!*”
- **Can you hear the golden bells of the gospel ringing out the glad tidings of grace?**

“The gospel bells in music tell
The story that we love so well

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Of peace on earth, good will to men:
Ring out sweet bells, ring out again!”

GREAT NEED

2nd — **Like those worshippers of old, we have come here with great need.** — Have you ever thought of the many needs represented in that vast congregation in the wilderness? — Some, no doubt, were so needy that they were insensible to their need. — Others came to the house of God with heavy, heavy hearts. — Grieving with bereavement. — Broken with sorrow. — Heavy with care. — Tortured with guilt. — Hungry. — Thirsty. — Weary. — Heavy Laden!

Yes, thank God, it is true, we who are the Lord’s are one with that Man who is at his right hand. As Israel was one with Aaron symbolically in the holy place, we are really and truly one with Christ, members of his body.

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- In Election
- In the Covenant
- In His Obedience
- In His Death
- In His Resurrection
- In His Glory

Being one with Christ, we are accepted in him, accepted with him, accepted for his sake. All our sins are blotted out. In Christ, before God, we have no spot of sin, no wrinkle of infirmity, no blemish or flaw of any kind. As one of the old writers put it, God’s saints are “All is fair and lovely beneath the eye of God.” This is our joy, our consolation, and our peace (Ephesians 2:5-10; Colossians 2:6-15; 1 John 3:5; 4:17).

(Ephesians 2:5-10) “Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (6) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly

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places in Christ Jesus: (7) That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

(Colossians 2:6-15) “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him: (7) Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. (8) Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. (9) For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (10) And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and

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power: (11) In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: (12) Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. (13) And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; (14) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (15) *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

(1 John 3:5) “And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.”

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(1 John 4:17) “Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”

Yet, so long as we are in this wilderness, we are in the place of need. Needy souls need no convincing. Our need is great. We know it. We acknowledge it. We are here in the house of God because we need him.

- Our weakness needs his strength.
- Our tried souls need his grace.
- Our tempted hearts need the grip of his mighty hand.
- Our wandering affections need his correction.
- Our falls need his restoration.
- Our sins need his forgiveness.
- Our filth needs his cleansing.
- Our coldness needs his fire.
- Our death needs his life!

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O my needy soul, look away to Christ! — My dear brother, whatever your soul needs this hour, Christ is the supply. — My heavy-hearted sister, whatever it is that your heart demands this moment, Christ is the supply! — O poor sinner, all that you need Christ is, Christ has, Christ gives!

- His blood meets the demands of my troubled conscience!
- His life meets the demands of my soul this day!

That brings me to my third point.

OUR MEDIATOR

3rd — **We have come here, I hope we have, to see, and worship, and hear from our God through the person and work of one representative Man, the Man Christ Jesus.** — God will not receive us, accept us, forgive us, hear us, speak to us, or allow us to speak to him, but by a Mediator, a Priest, an Intercessor, an Advocate, a Substitute. And that one

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Man by whom we can and do come to God, by whom God speaks, in whom God is well-pleased, in whom we see and worship God is Jesus Christ our Lord. He is our Priest, our ever-living Priest, our Priest in the Holy Place above.

- **Christ’s obedience** in his humiliation, as the last Adam, brought in everlasting righteousness for us (Romans 5:18-19).
- **Our Savior’s death** as the Lamb of God, our sin-atonement Substitute, satisfied all the demands of God’s holy law and forever put away our sins (Hebrews 9:26; 10:10-14).

(Hebrews 10:10-14) “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. (11) And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (12) But this man, after he had

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offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; (13) From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. (14) For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.”

- **But it is our Savior’s life in Heaven above**, as our great High Priest, which secures our souls in life (Romans 5:10-11). — Christ’s priestly work is done only in heaven, in the holy place not made with hands¹.

(Romans 5:6-11) “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. (8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then,

¹ There are no priests on earth, except as all true believers are made priests unto God in Christ.

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being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, **we shall be saved by his life.** (11) And not only *so*, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”

It is his presence in the sanctuary above that gives us hope and assurance. It is his presence above that causes us to rejoice. We could not stand for a second down here, if he did not live for us there. **It is our Savior’s life yonder in heaven, the life of him who died, and rose, and ascended on high that assures us of our everlasting, immutable salvation and acceptance with the holy Lord God** (Hebrews 8:3-4; 9:11-12, 24).

(Hebrews 8:3-4) “For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore

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it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. (4) For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law.”

(Hebrews 9:11-12) “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; (12) Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us.*”

(Hebrews 9:24) “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”

(1 John 2:1-2) “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man

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sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: (2) And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world.*”

GOD’S WORD

4th — If we would truly worship the Lord our God, — if we would see and hear from the God of heaven, —if we would see the glory of God, **we must worship him according to the revelation he has given in his Word.** — If you will carefully read this 8th chapter of Leviticus one more time, you will see that **everything in the worship of God is dictated by the Word of God.** Listen to me, now. God help you to hear me, for Christ’s sake. — **We will either come to God the way he requires or we cannot come to him at all** (Leviticus 8:5; 9:6). — “*The LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order!*” (1 Chronicles 15:13)

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(Leviticus 8:5) “And Moses said unto the congregation, *This is* the thing which the LORD commanded to be done.”

(Leviticus 9:6) “And Moses said, *This is* the thing which the LORD commanded that ye should do: and the glory of the LORD shall appear unto you.”

Let those words sink down into our hearts. — “***This is the thing which the LORD commanded to be done.***” Then, after every aspect of this holy service, we are told that **everything was done as “the LORD commanded.”** This is repeated seven times in this chapter (vv. 9, 13, 17, 21, 29, 34, 36).

1. (Leviticus 8:9) “And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, *even* upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; **as the LORD commanded** Moses.”

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2. (Leviticus 8:13) “And Moses brought Aaron’s sons, and put coats upon them, and girded them with girdles, and put bonnets upon them; **as the LORD commanded** Moses.”
3. (Leviticus 8:17) “But the bullock, and his hide, his flesh, and his dung, he burnt with fire without the camp; **as the LORD commanded** Moses.”
4. (Leviticus 8:21) “And he washed the inwards and the legs in water; and Moses burnt the whole ram upon the altar: it *was* a burnt sacrifice for a sweet savour, *and* an offering made by fire unto the LORD; **as the LORD commanded** Moses.”
5. (Leviticus 8:29) “And Moses took the breast, and waved it *for* a wave offering before the LORD: *for* of the ram of consecration it was

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Moses’ part; **as the LORD commanded**
Moses.”

6. (Leviticus 8:34) “As he hath done this day, **so the LORD hath commanded** to do, to make an atonement for you.”

7. (Leviticus 8:36) “So Aaron and his sons did all things **which the LORD commanded** by the hand of Moses.”

Moses did not say, This is the thing that is expedient, or agreeable, or suitable. — He did not say, This is what people want and expect. — He did not say, This is what the fathers, the elders, and our creed require. — Moses did not say, This is what history and custom demand. The man of God recognized no such authority. He said, “*This is the thing which the LORD commanded!*” — **If you don’t think that is important, go talk to Nadab and Abihu about it!**

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In Moses’ estimation, there was but one, solitary, authoritative voice by which the kingdom of God must be governed, and that solitary voice of authority was the Word of God.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17) “All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

- Our Only Source of Doctrine!
- Our Only Rule of Faith and Life!
- Our Only Guide in Worship! — Prayer! — Praise! — Preaching! — Nothing Else!
- Baptism — The Confession of Christ
- The Lord’s Supper — The Remembrance of Christ

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What would be the result of this strict adherence to the Word of God? — “The glory of the LORD will appear unto you!” Is God as good as his Word? Let’s see...

(Leviticus 8:36) “So Aaron and his sons did all things which the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.”

(Leviticus 9:23-24) “And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people. (24) And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: *which* when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.”

- Moses and Aaron (Truth and Mercy) went in before the Lord.

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- Moses and Aaron (Truth and Mercy, Justice and Grace) came out and blessed the people on the basis of a sin-atonement sacrifice.
- The glory of the Lord appeared. — “*A fire came out from the LORD and consumed*” the sacrifice.

What they saw in the types and shadows before them was the glory of God in the face of the Lord Jesus Christ, our crucified Substitute. Christ crucified is the revelation of the glory of God! — “The Thing which the LORD Commanded!”

- When the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces. — If ever we see what these folks saw, we will do what they did. — We will shout Jehovah’s praise and fall on our face before him!

Illustrations: *Job*
Isaiah

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(Revelation 4:10-11) “The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (11) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

(Revelation 5:9-10) “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; (10) And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

This is “*the thing which the LORD commanded to be done!*”

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Amen.