

Intro:

Main Point of Text: The Altar of Incense expresses daily and annually that God always receives His redeemed people's requests.

Sermon Point: *Through Christ, The Lord Will Listen and Respond to Your Prayers.*

Move 1: *Jesus Christ Himself offers up prayers for you by His Own blood.*

Vs. 9b: no offerings on the Brazen Altar of Burnt Offering (27:1ff; 38:30; 39:39). Because Blood in vs. 10 a sign of acceptance. Connection of two altars: Lev. 16:12-13; Num. 16:46, fire from B.A. used for the (Golden) Altar of Incense (Ex. 39:38); offerings at same time (am/pm). Difference: Brazen Altar where the sacrifice was offered in the outer court at the entrance to the Tabernacle; Golden Altar where the worship offered in the Holy Place before the veil to Holy of Holies (vs. 6). B.A. where people were made acceptable to God. G.A. where people's prayers were then received by God. Why not mentioned w/ other furniture in Ex. 25-27? God there was coming to them in grace to secure the relationship. Ex. 30: their coming to God was in grateful expression of the relationship. Vss. 6-8: regular reminder of continual effect: vs. 10b. Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:24-25; Jn. 17:9, 20.

Move 2: *Your own prayers must be offered to God His way through Christ's blood.*

Vs. 9: no strange incense. Regulative Principle of Worship. Lev. 10:1-3; 2 Chr. 26:18ff. Healing only by blood atonement: vs. 10; Day of Atonement reminder of Lev. 17:11/Heb. 9:22. Acts 4:12. 1 Tim. 2:5. Ps. 18:6. Heb. 4:16.

Move 3: *Your own effectual, righteous prayers through Christ do make a difference.*

Ex. 25:9, 40; 26:30; 27:8; Acts 7:44; Heb. 8:5: tabernacle a type of heavenly pattern shown to Moses on Mount Zion. Prefiguring what Christ actually makes us in Him. Incense burning on the Golden Altar really is the prayers of the saints: Rev. 5:8; 8:1-6: used in world! Thus, 1 Thes. 5:17: "Pray without Ceasing!" Not only are they always effectual, they are sweet and holy: vss. 7, 10 (literally, spice); vss. 34 (Mt. 2:11)-36. The Golden Altar of Incense teaches you: James 5:16: ... *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

Lack such a confident prayer life? Make sure it is not because of this: James 4:2-3; Psalm 66:18.

If this is your case, than change, and pray to God's Temple through Christ and be heard with such words as: Psalm 40:1-3; 66:19-20; 116:1-2; 141:2: Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense ...

Conclusion:

Be motivated by Luke 1:8-10.

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