

The Priestly Mission

Leviticus 10

INTRODUCTION

- Read 9:22-10:20

Uncompromised Purpose: The Glory of God (vv.1-3)

A) Liberty apart from God

- Unspecified Sin
 - Intentionality didn't matter
 - God's commands violated
- Yields judgment
 - 2 Chron.26:19**
 - Acts 5:1-11** (Ananias & Sapphira)
- Consuming Fire
 - Deut.4:24**
 - Heb.12:28-29**
- Brings sorrow
 - Only seems unjust from our view, and therein lies our problem
 - Not unlike viewing the Universe from the creature's point of view
 - God is holy. To be less in any circumstance is to be less than God in every circumstance

B) The Mark

- Missing it:** Rom.3:23
- God will be glorified
 - His character revealed among His people
 - Sanctified
 - Glorified
 - Remember, Aaron used the profane w/ the intent to worship God (people died)

- This is the point
 - In Creation
 - In Re-creation (salvation)
 - In Leadership
 - Handle the things of God carefully
 - Never function independently of God

Clarified Charge: Be Holy (vv.4-11)

A) Charge to the Priests (vv.4-10)

- Don't Mourn (**vv.4-7**)
 - Levitical priests (Aaron's family) called to first duty to carry out their dead cousins (Aaron could not touch the dead, else be unclean -- dead bury the dead)
 - Examine self before the Holy, consuming-fire God
 - Remember the communal responsibility (**vv.6-7**)
 - Don't mourn now
 - The entire congregation will mourn
- Distinguish & Teach (**vv.8-10**)
 - Not insignificant this is the first time God speaks directly to Aaron
 - Be sober in every way, handling the work of God (**vv.8-9**) -- Sobriety was certainly no guarantee
 - The Work (**v.10**)
 - Distinguish between the holy and common / clean and unclean (much detail will be dealt with in upcoming chapters)
 - To teach the people God's laws

B) Charge to the People (vv.10-11)

- Something of the Great Commission in the OT
- Observe the Laws of God
- Be Holy
 - Lev.11:44-45**
 - 1 Peter 1:14-16**

Specific Instruction: The Offerings (vv.12-20)

- A) **The Offerings remind the people of God's desire to dwell in their midst**
- B) **The Offerings keep God's Holy presence before the People**
- C) **The Offerings keep God's Holy requirements before the People**
- D) **The Offerings keep God's mercy before the people**
- E) **The Offerings are sufficiently insufficient**

CONCLUSION

- A) You may feel that this is all quite impossible and perhaps unfair. BUT God is a Holy God. His Holiness ("fire") brings life and joy or death. It all depends on how you come into His presence: Holy and pure yourself, or profane in your self-righteousness.
- B) **Heb.9:24-28**
- C) Christ is our only hope to be Holy before God. Where the priests themselves fell short, Christ was and is and will be the perfect priest for His people.
- D) The distinction must be made: are we going before Him as holy (in Christ) or common (on our own merits).
- E) **Heb.10:19-23**
- F) Like Mr. Beaver said, "Course he isn't safe. But he is good. He's the king I tell you."