

LEVITICUS 10

REVIEW...

- **INTRODUCTION**

- The Main theme of the Book is - Holiness...
 - God is perfect - holy - righteous - and His standard for us is His Holiness...
 - Key verse - **Leviticus 19:2** - "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy."
- Two main divisions to Leviticus...
 - Leviticus 1-16 - Laws concerning 'Ceremonial Holiness' - our relationship with God...
 - Leviticus 17-27 - Laws concerning 'Practical Holiness' - our daily lives...

- **LEVITICUS 1-5 - LAWS CONCERNING THE 4 SACRIFICES TO THE LORD...**

- 1st - the Burnt offering - the offering of submission - surrendering yourself totally to God...
- 2nd - the Grain offering - the offering of thankfulness - for all God has provided...
- 3rd - the Peace offering - the offering of fellowship - having a meal with the Lord...
- 4th - the sin offering - the offering for UNINTENTIONAL sin - breaking God's Law...

- **LEVITICUS 6-9 - INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PRIESTS - DEDICATION OF THE PRIESTS...**

- 1st - the Burnt offering - the priests had to keep the fire burning - never go out...
- 2nd - the Grain offering - the priests received part of the offering - but also gave back...
- 3rd - the Sin offering - 2 categories - unintentional sin / trespass - rebellion against God...
- 4th - the Peace offering - included leaven bread - God welcomes sinners...
- The portion for the priests - the priests were provided for by the sacrifices
 - It is the blessing of the people to free up a pastor to minister to them spiritually...
 - It is NEVER for the pastor to ask from the people - **I Corinthians 9:13-18**
- The priests were clothed and dedicated according to **Exodus 28-29**...
- The presence of God came down - and the fire of God burnt up the offering on the Altar...

MISREPRESENTING THE LORD...

- **THE DEATH OF THE SONS OF AARON... VS. 1-2**

- In all the excitement - the presence of the Lord - the fire coming out from the Lord...
- The two oldest sons of Aaron - Nadab & Abihu - grabbed their golden pans...
- Put some incense in them - and lit them on fire as an 'offering to the Lord'...
- But it was 'strange fire' - not an offering God had commanded the priests to give...
- So fire came out from God and consumed them - and they died before the LORD...
- This seems to be a VERY extreme reaction to us on the part of God...
- But we are given 2 reason why this was such a serious error - with severe repercussions...

- **1ST - MISREPRESENTING THE LORD... VS. 3**

- The priest were the representation of God to the people...
 - So it was incredibly important that obey all laws of God - regard Him as Holy...
 - If they did things God did not command them to do - they misrepresented God...

- If the priests were mad at the people - Israel would assume God was mad at them...
- If the priests told Israel to jump on one foot - they would assume it was from God...
- Whatever the priests said or did - was a pattern for Israel to follow after...
- A heavy responsibility - with stern consequences for misrepresenting the Lord...
- o Just like the priests - pastors/teachers have the responsibility to represent Jesus to people...
 - There are many priests/pastors/leaders who misrepresent the Lord today...
 - I was watching a 'Christian' TV show a number of years ago...
 - The claim was made if you did not send in money to support their program...
 - God would hold you responsible for people not hearing the Gospel - going to hell...
 - People listening to things like that - who don't know better - believe it is from God...
 - They get the impression God is broke - and needs for us to give to Him...
 - * **I Timothy 6:5** - "These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they don't tell the truth. To them religion is just a way to get rich."
 - Like the priests Hophi & Phinehas - **I Samuel 2:12-17**...
 - They would take the best of the meat of the sacrifices (*steal*) from the people...
 - They had affairs with the women who came to worship - **I Samuel 2:22**
 - They were such poor representatives of God - the people hated coming to God!
 - **I Samuel 2:17** - "Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men despised the offerings of the LORD."
 - When Christian leaders only seek to get from God's people...
 - Liars - dishonest - and immoral - the people watching think that is what God is like...
 - Looking at those who are supposed to represent God...
 - It is not wonder people are not that interested in getting to know Jesus!
 - And God will judge these leaders for their misrepresentation...
 - * **James 3:1** - "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment."
- **2ND - STRONG DRINK AND WINE... VS. 8-10**
 - o In the immediate aftermath of the death of Nadab & Abihu God gives Moses a command...
 - Do not drink when you are coming before the Lord - or you will die...
 - Because the alcohol will impair your judgment - keep you from thinking clearly...
 - A drunken leader cannot discern between good or bad - right or wrong...
 - He cannot teach the people about the Law and commands of God...
 - o The suggestion is Nadab & Abihu had been drinking...
 - Perhaps during the 7-day feast of dedication of the priests - a time of rejoicing...
 - But their celebrating left them impaired - lacking good judgment...
 - So they offered a sacrifice not commanded by God - and paid with their lives!
 - o A leader - pastor/teacher - is forbidden to drink at all...
 - **I Timothy 3:3** - "A pastor must be... not given to wine."
 - Because the Pastor is an example to the church - so he is not to drink alcohol...
 - If someone whom was struggling not to drink say their pastor drinking...
 - It might cause him to be tempted to start drinking again...
 - Because a drunk pastor is not going to be able to teach the people...

- Can you imagine a pastor coming to Sunday service - drunk...
- Would his sermon make any sense - would you be willing to listen...
- If you had questions about the Bible - would he be able to answer...
- o The Bible does not say that it is wrong for others to drink alcohol - but... (*4 things*)
 - 1st - Do not to be drunk...
 - **Ephesians 5:18** – “Do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”
 - The Bible does say it is wrong to be drunk – to loose self control...
 - Much better to be filled with the Holy Sprit!
 - When full of wine you will do things you will regret (*and not remember*)...
 - When you are full of the Spirit you will do great things for God that never fade!
 - 2nd - Remember not to stumble other brothers & sisters...
 - **I Corinthians 8:13** – “If what I eat [*or drink*] is going to make another Christian sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live, for I don’t want to make another Christian stumble.”
 - We may have the liberty – and self-control – to drink moderately - occasionally...
 - But that does not mean that everyone else around us does...
 - If my freedom in Christ causes someone else to sin - then I should not drink...
 - Don’t use your freedom in Christ – to destroy the faith of someone else!
 - I knew a brother in the Lord who struggled with alcohol – lost his whole family...
 - He grew in the Lord – stopped drinking – and stated to get his life back...
 - One day a ‘brother’ invited him over to play some pool – offered him a beer...
 - ‘We have freedom in Jesus’ – the brother told him – what can one beer hurt...
 - He ended up falling back into his old lifestyle – walked away from the Lord
 - One man’s freedom in Christ – can be another man’s undoing...
 - Be sensitive to each other’s weaknesses – protecting each other from sin!
 - 3rd - Do what the Holy Spirit says...
 - Can you drink – wrong question – should you drink – right question...
 - o I can drink all I want – I just don’t want to drink...
 - o As with all things - pray and ask the Lord if He wants you drink...
 - o If you can drink with a clean conscience – then no problem...
 - o If the Lord’s convicting you of drinking – ask Him to change your heart...
 - o Ask Him to take away the desire to drink...
 - o **Romans 14:23** – “...for whatever is not from faith is sin.”
 - If you want to stop drinking but just don’t seem to be able to...
 - o Pray – keep asking the Lord to take away the desire...
 - o But also don’t put your self in a place where you will be tempted...
 - o e.g. – beer in the refrigerator / hanging out with others who are drinking
 - 4th - Make a wise choice...
 - You never hear someone say, ‘my life is so much better because I drink.’
 - In contrast many have said, ‘my life is much better since I stopped drinking.’
 - * **Proverbs 23:29-35** – “Who has sorrow? Who is always fighting? Who is always complaining? Who has unnecessary bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? It is the one

who spends long hours in the [bars], trying out new drinks. Don't let the sparkle and smooth taste of [alcohol] deceive you. For in the end it bites like a poisonous serpent; it stings like a viper. You will see hallucinations, and you will say crazy things. You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea, clinging to a swaying mast. And you will say, "They hit me, but I didn't feel it. I didn't even know it when they beat me up. When will I wake up so I can have another drink?"

- How much better to be full of Jesus rather than full of wine!

- FROM THE HEART... vs. 4-7, 12-20

- o Aaron and his sons were not allowed to mourn... vs. 4-7
 - The sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel - Mishael & Elzaphan - removed the bodies...
 - The oil of the Lord was on Aaron and his 2 remaining sons Eleazar & Ithamar...
 - They couldn't leave the Tabernacle or take off their priestly clothes...
 - They were in the middle of the dedication - if they left - they would also die...
 - But Moses told them all of Israel would weep for Nadab & Abihu in their place...
 - When others are hurting - going through a tough time - meet them where they are...
 - I knew a family who lost their child - two pastors came to 'encourage them'...
 - The 1st pastor gave them all the 'right' verses - but was of no comfort...
 - The 2nd pastor just wrapped his arms around the parents - and cried with them...
 - Romans 12:15 - "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."
 - Aaron and his sons could not weep - but Moses and Israel wept for them!
- o Making the outside look good... vs. 12-18
 - Moses commanded the priests - to eat the sacrifices offered to the Lord...
 - This may seem like odd timing to be talking about eating food - 2 men just died...
 - But Moses was doing his best to be careful - make sure they followed the Law exactly...
 - The law commanded the priests to eat from the Peace / Grain / and Sin offerings...
 - So Moses became angry when he found the Sin offering uneaten - it was all burned up...
 - Likely in the sorrow over the loss of his sons - Aaron and his boys lost their appetite...
 - The last thing they wanted to do was celebrate and feast before the Lord...
- o An honest look at the heart... vs. 19-20
 - Aaron checked Moses - they had obeyed all the commands of God...
 - And in spite of that - Aaron had watched his two sons die that day...
 - If they had now gone and eaten the 'sin offering' - would God have even accepted it...
 - An honest response - Aaron was saying his heart was not in it...
 - If he only obeyed in actions - but not in heart - it would have counted for nothing...
 - There is a temptation in the Christian walk to want to 'Look Good'...
 - To focus on the outward appearance - looking righteous and holy...
 - But God sees our heart - not just our actions - He knows who we really are...
 - I Samuel 16:7 - "For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
 - God is not nearly as interested in us keeping every rule - looking good on the outside...
 - As He is interested in what is in our heart - desiring to obey and follow the Lord...
 - The best example is not someone who is perfect in his or her actions...

- But someone who has a heart wholly sold out for the Lord!