

## Message Four

### **Burning the Incense**

Scripture Reading: Exo. 30:34-38; Psa. 141:2; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5

- I. The incense is our going to God with Christ and as Christ in prayer for God's enjoyment—Exo. 30:35.**
- II. In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, incense signifies our prayer—Psa. 141:2; Rev. 5:8:**
  - A. In particular, the incense refers to the resurrected and ascended Christ with all His work, fruits, and merit—all that He is, all that He has accomplished, and all that He does—Eph. 1:7, 19-23; Heb. 7:25
  - B. In Revelation 5:8 the bowls are the saints' prayers, whereas the incense is Christ added to the saint' prayers.
  - C. In 8:3 incense signifies Christ with all His merit added to the prayers of the saints so that the saints' prayers offered upon the golden altar might be acceptable to God:
    1. Prayer with Christ as the incense is actually Christ Himself ascending to God; this is a sweet-smelling fragrance to God.
    2. This kind of prayer simultaneously satisfies God with a sweet fragrance and carries out God's economy, God's administration—Rev. 8:3.
    3. The smoke of the incense indicates that the incense is burned and ascended to God with the prayers of the saints—v. 4:
      - a. This implies that the prayers of the saints become effective and are acceptable to God.
      - b. The smoke indicates that the saints' prayers are effective because Christ has been added to them as incense; it is the incense, not the saints' prayers, that causes the smoke to rise.
      - c. The smoke of the incense goes up with the prayers of the saints to the throne of God, and the prayers are answered—vv. 3, 5.
    4. The incense typifies the resurrected and ascended Christ, the unique One who is received by God and acceptable to Him; thus, He becomes a sweet savor to God—vv.3-4.
    5. Since the incense signifies Christ, to burn the incense means to pray Christ; God's desire is that when we pray, we pray Christ.