

Message Two

The Two Steps of Reconciliation Portrayed by the Two Veils of the Tabernacle

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 5:18-20; Exo. 26:31-35, 37; Heb. 10:19-20

- I. Generally, today's Christians know only the first aspect of Christ's death, that He died for our sins that we may be forgiven by God (1 Cor. 15:3); they are not as familiar with the second aspect of His death, that He died for us that we may live to Him in the resurrection life—2 Cor. 5:14-15.**
- II. The two steps of reconciliation are clearly portrayed by the two veils of the tabernacle—Exo. 26:31-35, 37; Heb. 9:3:**
 - A. Both veils signify the unique Christ—the Christ who died for our sins and also for us.
 - B. The first veil is called “the screen”—Exo. 26:37:
 1. A sinner who was brought to God through the reconciliation of the propitiating blood entered into the Holy Place by passing through this screen.
 2. This typifies the first step of reconciliation.
 - C. The second veil (vv. 31-35; Heb. 9:3) still separated the sinner from God, who was in the Holy of Holies:
 1. This veil needed to be rent that the sinner might be brought to God in the Holy of Holies—Matt. 27:51; Heb. 10:19-20.
 2. This typifies the second step of reconciliation.
- III. The goal of 2 Corinthians is to bring the believers into the Holy of Holies to live with God in their spirit (1 Cor. 6:17) that they may be persons in the spirit:**
 - A. Paul's words, “Be reconciled to God” (2 Cor. 5:20), were spoken not to rebels and sinners in the outer court but to believers in the Holy Place.
 - B. The Corinthian believers had been reconciled to God, having passed through the first veil and having entered into the Holy Place:
 1. Although they had been reconciled to God in the first step (Rom. 5:10), they still lived in the flesh—1 Cor. 3:1, 3.
 2. They needed to pass through the second veil, which had been rent already (Matt. 27:51; Heb. 10:20), and enter into the Holy of Holies.
 - C. Although the Corinthians had been saved and reconciled to God halfway, they still lived in the flesh; that is, they lived in the soul, the outward man, the natural being—1 Cor. 2:14-15:
 1. Their natural being was a separating veil.
 2. The veil of the flesh, of the natural man, still separated them from God.
 3. With the Corinthians Paul was endeavoring to carry out the second step of reconciliation:
 - a. Paul was working on the Corinthians to cut asunder the veil of the flesh, to crucify their natural life.

- b. He was cleaving the separating veil of the flesh so that the believers could enter into the Holy of Holies.

IV. Only when we pass through the second veil are we thoroughly reconciled to God and able to enjoy Him in full—Heb. 10:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:20:

- A. Although the flesh was riven when Christ was crucified (Matt. 27:51), experientially our flesh may still be whole—Gal. 5:24.
- B. The reason many have not entered into the Holy of Holies is that although their sins have been forgiven, their flesh has not been broken but remains untouched.
- C. The Spirit and all things (Rom. 8:13, 28) work together to put us into the death of Christ so that we may pass through the riven veil and thereby enter into the Holy of Holies to enjoy God in full.