***The Sin Offering  
  
Colossians 2:18-19  
  
COL-442***

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This morning, we continue with our study in the Word of Truth on "The Error of Legalism,” number 54, in Colossians 2:16-17.

The Mosaic Law temple rituals and sacrifices symbolize spiritual truths, which would become reality upon the arrival on earth of the Messianic Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. One of the great burdens of Christendom today, is that they have not understood how great has been the change since the arrival of the Lord Jesus, and the day of Pentecost, when we entered the era of the church age. It was clear to every Jew in the Old Testament that he could not obey the laws of God. He could be sincere. He could try. But he could not obey them. Simply, he could not do right.

So, God came and said, "A new age has begun. The third person of the Trinity will now indwell you permanently, along with the Son of God, who will also do you for fellowship. And you will have the ability to do what you could not do before. It will be possible for you to obey the will of God, in moral matters, and all the other aspects of your life, it will be possible to do the right thing. And you will be motivated to do the right thing. That will be your desire. You won't have a taste for that which is insulting and degrading to you as a member of the body of Christ, the family of God. The result was that everything changed.

However, unfortunately, the churches which came out of the Protestant Reformation never fully understood this. And I can remember, as a child, going to preparation for confirmation class in the Lutheran church, that in the catechism, the first thing we learned was how to apply all the Mosaic rules (the Mosaic code) to our lives – the extensive memorization, and the explanations). It never occurred to anybody that that no longer was the approach to God. The principles of righteousness were there, and that was true. But they were the principles expressed for losers. Now, those same principles are going to be expressed with the power of the Spirit of God for winners and achievers.

Even as a youngster, as I sat in church and looked at that great display of that altar up front, and the candles burning, and the ritual that was performed, and the robed pastor, I wondered why we were still doing Mosaic stuff with the Old Testament Law, if Christ was the final sacrifice. What were we sacrificing? That's pretty smart for a kid to wonder about. But I didn't know, and I just went along that somehow we live by the Mosaic Law. It was a system we were to obey, but only selectively. And it doesn't bother you. You must understand that this is the difference between Berean Memorial Church (Bible-oriented churches), and the vast number of churches that are out there. They're all still trying to do right by human effort.

You cannot even do right by human effort in the age of grace, and the age of the Holy Spirit. The only way you and I will do right before God (fulfill our mission of service) is because the Holy Spirit does it for us. If you don't understand that, and if you can't get hold of that difference, you're never going to make it. You're going to grovel through your life. You're going to waste your years. Then you are going to stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and you wonder how little is the reward, compared to what might have been. So, this is no small thing.

When the apostle Paul, in Colossians (in our text), said, "Therefore, let no one act as your judge, regarding food, or drink, or in respect to a festival, or a new moon, or a Sabbath Day – things which are a mere shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Paul says, "Don't let them intimidate you with that Mosaic Law business. It's not it's not the issue anymore. And if you try to live the Christian life by your sincerity and human effort, you'll be as much a failure as the Jew was." Aha.

This is why preachers like to teach people tithing. It is so much easier to raise money for God's work, because the only alternative is that you have to say to people, "I cannot tell you what to give to God. Only God can tell you that. And the Holy Spirit, that subtle voice within you that will inspire you – that intuitive guidance, will be on your heart. But He's not going to come through like with a sledgehammer. He's not going to come through like a thundering herd of cattle. He'll tell you, "You obey, or you don't. That's up to you." And you'll find that that which He guides to do, and that which He will do, enables you to be everything you should be. But if you say, "I'm going to be determined to do this, and to do that, and you're going to do it all on your own effort, you won't. You'll be sinning by commission, and by omitting to do things that you should do. You cannot live the Christian life by human effort.

The Christian life is staying in temporal fellowship, where God the Father is able to speak to you, and where God the Father is able to say, "Get the other screw in place. That thing isn't going to hold." Or He will give you the direction, when you're looking at somebody: "Do I want to marry this person? God don't leave me in the dark. Give me guidance. Give me the insight. Give me Your choice." And the result will be: not your calculating; not your taking tests; and, not your psychological analysis. There will be, again, that intuitive wisdom.

However, you have to be a person who knows church-age doctrine. You have to be a person who is willing to admit to yourself: "I'm wrong. I admit. I confess. Change it." And fellowship goes on. The altar, and the whole ritual system of the Mosaic Law is nothing today. Yet, this is where most of Christianity is. It's still tied up with that. Whose fault is that? Well, it's the work of Satan, obviously, because if Christians are all tied up with the Mosaic Law, you don't have to worry about them achieving great things in the work of God. He doesn't have to worry about them becoming a band of Gideonites.

This is what the devil is afraid of. He's not worried about churches of thousands and thousands of members. Those are no problem to him. But you get a group of 300 people, who are walking by means of the Holy Spirit, because they are in temporal fellowship with their Heavenly Father, and who have a servant's heart, and a vision of mission. Those people are going to conquer and achieve what thousands could not do. But you have to be taught. You have to be told. You have to be alerted to this lifestyle.

**The Sin Offering**

For the Jew, it was all in symbols and in pictures. Among these things were the five basic sacrifices prescribed for Jewish worship. These sacrifices foreshadowed the great spiritual realities of salvation, and the spiritual life of the believer. Two if these Mosaic Law offerings were compulsory. So, they had to be periodically performed by the Israelites at the temple. The other three were voluntary. One of these compulsory sacrifices was the sin offering. This symbolized a doctrine of restitution to temporal fellowship with God, in dealing with one's unknown sins.

Every now and then, somebody is guilty of sinning under the Mosaic system. They didn't do it deliberately – not willfully, or premeditated. They just stumbled into it. They didn't realize what was going on. So, God makes a way back for it. He was provided with the information. When he became aware of it, then he presented the sin offering. We have it in 1 John 1:9. This is the same principle: "If we confess our sins (our known sins), He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and then to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This covers the unknowns. There is this sin offering principle in 1 John 1:9.

In the presenting of this sin offering, there were four types of categories of sinners. One was, first of all, the high priests. He was the nation's spiritual leader. Then there was the nation of Israel as a whole. Then there were the leaders of the people (the tribes). And then there were the common people. The high priest had to bring the most expensive offering – a bull. The blood of this animal was sprinkled seven times on the curtain that separated the holy place from the holy of holies in the temple. The priest then smeared the blood on the four corners, the horns of the altar of incense, and the altar of gold. Then the altar of incense is represented the Lord Jesus Christ, as a Christian – his high priest in heaven, Who is interceding in prayers. The incense represents the prayers of believers going to God.

This incense and the prayers they represented were based on the blood which had been shed out in the outer courtyard, of the animals slain, representing the blood of Christ on the cross. The prayers of believers in temporal fellowship with the Father are heard in heaven, because you are a born-again person, and because you are in temporal fellowship.

People of the world are always told to pray, but they can't reach God. If you're not a Christian, you have no access to God in prayer. Whatever He may do, He might do in mercy, in His judgment. But when you come in, you're His child. And immediately, you get his full attention. When you're in fellowship, get his full attention. That is a lifestyle to live. Some Christians never hear about it. Some do, and never rise to it.

The remaining blood of this bull was then poured at the base of the altar of sacrifice, which is called the brazen altar. The fat and the kidney was burned on the altar. The rest of the bull was taken outside the city, where it was burned in a holy place – an ash pile. And that pile itself represented the propitiation by Jesus Christ on the cross.

There were three other remaining categories of the sin offering. The procedure is basically the same, but, again, it was a repeated ritual that had meaning in its symbolism. It had no meaning in itself.

That's where the Mosaic Law has come to now. And that's what Reformation Christianity came to. It came to where it was a system of sacraments: "If I do this, then God will do this." It was sacramental. In Lutheranism, we were told that this was our means of grace: "If you read the Bible, then God will be gracious to you." I was taught that that was a means of grace. That's an oxymoron. Grace means: "You don't deserve it. You don't earn it. It's a gift. There are no questions. So, how can you have a means of grace?

Be that as it may, the whole system of the Mosaic Law, repeated again and again, emphasized the fact that sin was a serious problem. Here, even if you didn't realize what you were doing, you have offended the righteousness of God.

The second category is for the congregation as a whole. You have this in Leviticus 4:13-21. This follows the same procedure as the sinning of the high priest, because the high priest, of course, had a big effect on the whole nation. But the congregation as a whole, sinning in some respect, also affects the nation. The elders represented the spiritual leaders of Israel would put their hands on this bull, to transfer the nation's sin to this animal. And then promises of forgiveness and restoration to temporal fellowship were extended to the congregation.

Leviticus 4:13: "Now, if the whole congregation of Israel commits error, and the matter escapes the notice of the assembly, and they commit any of the things which the Lord has commanded not to be done, and they become guilty – when the sin which they have committed becomes known, then the assembly shall offer a bull of the herd for a sin offering, and bring it before the tent of meeting. Then the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands on the head of the bull before the Lord, and the bull shall be slain before the Lord. Then the anointed priest (the high priest) is to bring some of the blood of the bull to the tent of meeting, and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the Lord, in front of the veil. He shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar, which is before the Lord (the altar of incense in the tent of meeting), and all the blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering, outside the holy place, which is at the doorway of the tent of the meeting. And he shall remove all the fat from it, and offer it up in smoke on the altar. He shall also do with the bull, as he did with the bull of the sin offering. Thus he shall do with it. So, the priest shall make atonement for them, and they shall be forgiven." So, the whole congregation is secured under the blessing of God, back in temporal fellowship.

Verse 21: "Then he is to bring out the bull to a place outside the camp, and burn it as he burned the first bull. It is a sin offering for the assembly."

**Abortion in the United States**

So, this is very interesting – that a whole nation can be under divine interdict because of its sinning – the nation as a whole. Does it make you wonder where the United States stands with the brutality of abortion? I want to show a cartoon. A lady is standing out there, looking at a vast cemetery ground of crosses, representing 40 million babies which have been slaughtered in the womb – human beings, murdered by an act of men who are now in eternity, who wish to God that they never made that decision on the Supreme Court.

In the Old Testament, God made it clear that nations which shed innocent blood (these brutal nations surrounding Israel) – these nations who took their infant children, and threw them in the mouth of the Baal image, where the flames were burning, and got an exciting experience with their god by listening to their children scream alive, as they were burned in that offering to Baal. God said, "These people drenched the land with their murders (innocent blood). And for that, the nations were destroyed.

This is why God told Israel: "You go in, and you do not get yourself with human-viewpoint orientation of pity. These people are spiritually cancerous. And it is contagious. If you do not remove them, you will follow their ways." For some reason, the Jews, not having the power to be able to do right and to obey God good – they wouldn't rise to it. And sure enough, when it was no longer a problem, they let some of those nations go on and live. And as time went by, it influenced them. And all of a sudden, Israel is following their idolatrous ways.

So, I suspect that the United States is facing a national judgment because of what it has done in tolerating the slaughter of innocent children. There's only one comfort in all that, of course, and it is that these babies are all in heaven with the Lord.

So, there was a sacrifice for restoration of unknown sinning to the whole congregation. What would happen if the United States could finally be alerted to the fact of what it has done, and there should come a national mourning? Wouldn't that be interesting?

Then there was another category, and that is for the ruler. You have this in Leviticus 4:22-26. In this case, the ruler was to bring an unblemished male goat to the brazen altar; lay his hands on the head of the goat out there in the courtyard to symbolically transfer his guilt to it; and, he would kill the animal. The officiating priest would then catch the blood in the basement; smear the blood with his fingers on the four horns of the brazen altar. This was atonement for the whole world – the power of God unto salvation. Then he poured the remaining portion of the blood at the foot of the altar.

**The Peace Offering**

Leviticus 4:22: "When a leader sins, and unintentionally does any one of the things which the Lord God has commanded not to be done, and he becomes guilty – if a sin which he has committed is made known to him, he shall for his offering a goat – a male without defect. He shall lay his hands on the head of the male goat. He shall slay it in place where they slay the burnt offering before the Lord. It is a sin offering. Then the priest is to take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger; put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering; and, the rest of its blood, he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering. And all its fat he shall offer up in smoke on the altar, as it is the case of the fat of the sacrifice of the peace offering. Thus the priest shall make atonement for him in regard to his sins, and he shall be forgiven."

He didn't know he was doing something wrong, but when he realized it, he made an offering. This is just as, often, you will, because you happen to attend some church service, and the Spirit of God gives some exposition and some guidance, and you say, "Whoa, I'm not doing right there. I didn't realize that." And you turn around, and you make confession, and you make correction.

Then there was one other category of unknown sinning, and that is the common people. This is Leviticus 4:27-35. It has all the same basic principles, again, as for the rulers. But this time they offered a female goat or lamb, which represented the receptiveness of Messiah to bear our sins.

Leviticus 4:27: "Now, if any one of the common people sins unintentionally in doing any of these things which the Lord has commanded not to be done, and becomes guilty – if his which he has committed is made no to him, then he shall bring for his offering a goat, a female without defect, for his sin which he has committed. He shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering, and slay the sin offering at the place of the burnt offering. And the priest shall take some of the blood with his finger, and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and all the rest of the blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar. Then he shall remove all its fat, just as the fat was removed from the sacrifice of the peace offering, and the priest shall offer it up in smoke on the altar, for a soothing aroma to the Lord. Thus, the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be forgiven. But if he brings a lamb as his offering for a sin offering, he shall bring in a female without defect; lay his hand on the head of the sin offering; slay it for a sin offering in the place where they slay the burnt offering. And the priest is to take some of the blood of the sin offering his finger; put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering; and, the rest of the blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar.

"Then he shall remove all of its fat, just as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of the peace offerings. And the priest shall offer them up in smoke on the altar, on the offerings by the fire to the Lord. And the priest shall make atonement for him, in regard to his sin which he has committed, and he shall be forgiven." The word "atonement," that is stated here, really refers to a covering. The full forgiveness had to wait for what? The final slaying of the Lamb of God. The slaying of this lamb (this animal) could not bring forgiveness. But it did give you forgiveness on credit. That full credit was extended to you, into your account, when Christ paid the price on the cross. Then all those people who had been standing by since the time of Adam, in the Paradise section if Hades, waiting to be transferred to heaven, finally had their sins forgiven. They were under the protective custody of God until then. Now they were forgiven, and the Lord Jesus Christ said, "OK, everybody get out of here. You're going to heaven. So, the only people that go to Hades now are the unbelievers, whose sins, indeed, Christ is paid for, but who have rejected that covering (that offering) of forgiveness.

Leviticus 5:1-13 is an important section to tie all this up. This is more guidelines on the sin offering. Please remember that what we're dealing with is all the symbolism of when you disobey God: "Oh, I didn't mean to. I'm covered for all the chocolate cookies. Mommy, I didn't mean to eat those." OK, don't do it anymore. No, sin has been committed. Maybe you didn't realize it, but it's a done deed.

One time, my mother was visiting us, and Leonora made some of those very tender little French-like cookies. And I was sitting in a chair reading, and she brings this bowl of these little half-moon-shaped cookies. They were very tender, and very buttery-like. And as I was meditating, I reached down, and I ate them. And these, which were to be served for dessert, finally I had only four cookies left in the bowl. And Lenora said, "You ate them all?" And my mother said, "You just put those down there beside him like that?" So, who is at fault here? Well, a fracture had taken place, innocently enough. Unbeknownst, my mind was out there on spiritual things. And I was feeding on the food of the Lord, here given to me. But the problem was that the cookies were gone. And that messed up the menu for that night.

**What Causes a Christian to Sin?**

1. **The Old Sin Nature**

So, all of this is: "Yeah, I didn't mean to do it, but you did violate the required standard. Please remember that there are three things that are working against you, to make a fool out of you as a Christian. This is what leads you every day to go astray. One is this sin nature. You have an old sin nature, that has come down from Adam, and it has a pattern of lusts. Ant the lust patterns of the old sin nature are what control you every moment of the day, even as a Christian. The only way the lust patterns of the sin nature will not control you, to guide you and drive you to do evil, is if the Holy Spirit has been placed in charge of your life, and He overrides the power of the sin nature. If you step out of temporal fellowship, and act like a spiritual do-do in doing so, then you are right back here under the old sin nature, and you will wonder: "Why in the world am I acting like a dog, as a Christian, instead of acting like a child of the King, in the body of Christ, the royal family of God?"

1. **The World System**

The second thing that is pressing you away from the things of God is the world system. This world system is designed by Satan. Everything on television; in entertainment; and, everywhere in life is to corrode you. It is to debase you. It is to make you a crude person, and to cause you to act and to speak in a crude way, just to be sinful. The whole society around us is not to be Christlike. Well, if you are not Christlike, then what are you like?

1. **Satan**

Then you're coming up against the last pressure point for evil, and that is Satan himself. Satan is going about, the Scripture says, "Pussyfooting around like a lion," watching for what? The Christian who is out of temporal fellowship. And when he sees you, he signals his demons, and you can count on it – that they're going to move right in on you. Satan is running the place. He's calling the plays to bring you down. And all of this is to keep you from being Christlike instead of Satan-like. There is only one way to beat it. The Holy Spirit, acting within you, and guiding you to bring to your mind the doctrinal principle you've learned. Now, the less doctrine you know, the less resources you have to fall back upon for guidance. But it is only the mind of God, which is to be found in doctrine, that enables you to make it in the devil's world.

So, this is all against us, and it was against the Jew. That's why the Mosaic code told you what should be, but it could not be. So, this section, in Leviticus 5:1-13, emphasizes how important it is that you recognize when you are violating the will of God, even innocently. The compulsory non-fragrant offering (this sin offering for restoration of temporal fellowship), because of negligence or forgetfulness, we may trespass (refusing to bear true witness) to knowing about a crime. That is in verse 1.

Now a person may sin after he hears a public adoration to testify. He is called upon to testify in a legal situation. He is a witness, whether he has seen or otherwise known. If he does not tell it, then he will bear his guilt. You call upon the witness to testify to what you have witnessed. For some reason, by negligence or your carelessness of thought, you don't testify truthfully. You're not doing this deliberately. This is unintentional. But you have withheld information, and it's a sin.

In verse 2-3, here the trespass is accidentally touching what is ceremonially unclean, and thus contaminating yourself (the dead body of an animal, or some human state of uncleanness. Verse 2: "Or if a person touches any unclean thing, whether the carcass of an unclean beast, or the carcass of an unclean cattle, or the carcass of an unclean swarming thing, though it is hidden from him." He doesn't realize that he is unclean: "And he will be guilty. Or if he touches human uncleanness of whatever sort, his uncleanness may be with which he becomes unclean, and it is hidden from him. Then he becomes to know, and he'll be guilty."

Under the Mosaic system, there was always ceremonial purity, and ceremonial uncleanness. And a dead animal was one sure way to get ceremonially unclean. And touching a person, man or woman, who is in a status of uncleanness, for one reason or another, in the ritual system, contaminated you. So, here you have the symbolized the effect of a believer's association with evil ways on himself.

So, we get back to the sin nature; the world system; and, Satan. You're associated with these things. And the result is that it influences you if you're not controlled by the Spirit of God. All of these things will bring you out of the will of God. That is the natural direction. Human viewpoint ideas of your evil companions are unclean to a regenerated believer. They counter the divine viewpoint of God.

Yeah, we've all seen people around here, held in the highest esteem. We've depended upon their ministries, and their service, and they have sustained us spiritually. Then something happens. And they disappear. The first reason they disappear is because they've lost their taste for explanatory preaching. People who are out of temporal fellowship with the Lord do not want to listen to expository preaching that gives them what God thinks. They don't want to sit there, hearing it. They don't want to listen to it, because sin is now in the life, and that sin has brought them down.

How does that happen? Very often, it is with the people they associate with. I cannot believe some of our kids – the people they esteem in the entertainment world, and in the social world around them – the people that they ought to look at, and they ought to recoil from with horror. If you go around associating with people like that, and being on good terms with them, you will start being like them, or they will reject you.

This is what Peter pointed out in 1 Peter 4:3-4. Peter says, "For the time already passed is sufficient." He's talking to Christians. Is it OK, folks? The time is short, and your life is running out: "We are the Lord's witnesses." In 1 Peter 4:3, he says, "The time is long past for us to keep acting like unbelievers. For the time passed is sufficient for you to carry out the desires of the gentiles." What are the desires of the gentiles? The desires of the gentiles are: the sin nature; the world system; and, Satan: "Having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals (drinking parties), and abominable idolatries (like love of money). In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them in the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you." You are made fun of because you will not participate with them in evil.

They will say to you, "What do you do for fun?" You may say, "Well, let me see now. I don't go for sensuality. I's not saying that I'm perfect, but this is not my taste, and this not my lifestyle. I'll stumble. But this is not acceptable to me." Sensuality? "Well, how are you going to have fun?" Lust? "Well, how are you going to have fun?" Drunkenness. "Well, how are you going to have fun? If you can't get drunk and vomit, what fun is it in life?" Carousal? "How are you going to have fun?" Drinking parties, and abominable idolatries? In all this, they're surprised that you don't think this is fun. And they malign you.

Verse 5 says, "But they shall give account to Him Who is ready to judge the living and the dead." So, stand tall, young person or adult. Let the world of Satan, and its system, ridicule you, because the time is going to come when God will honor what you have done in being Christlike. That's our calling.

So, Christians actively serving the Lord in divine good works, can be shot down by becoming part of somebody else's carnality (worldliness). It is so tiresome to see Christians who become spiritual casualties until they don't even realize it – how degenerate they become. They should know that the first signal should be: "I don't really care to go to church. I don't really feel very comfortable with what I'm hearing there. I don't really feel very happy in association with those people." That should be the signal: wait a minute! God is being proclaimed, and you're uncomfortable?

So, here's where the faith-rest technique comes in. You do right, and you leave the rest to the Lord. And you don't try to take your vengeance. You know, you'd like to sock it to these people. We have to be careful, even though we criticize the world system, because they are blind. They don't realize how they are selling themselves short for all eternity. And we have to sympathize with what they will someday face.

There's another one, and that's getting back to Leviticus 5:4. Here is another unknown setting: "Or if a person swears thoughtlessly with his lips: to do evil; or, to do good. In whatever manner a man may speak thoughtlessly with an oath, and it is hidden from him, then he comes to know it, he shall be guilty in one of these." Here you have the situation where, due to neglect or carelessness, somebody promises to do something for God, and then doesn't do it. Don't be too quick to make promises to God – promises that He will then expect you to keep.

I don't know how many times I've had Christians promise to do something: "Well, listen, I'll help you out here. I can help you there." And you never hear from them again: "Wait a minute. Did you actually think you were promising *me* to do something in behalf of God's work? It was the Lord." Now, you're wondering why things aren't so hot in your life. This business of promising and not coming through is very dangerous. That's why this special little section is so important. You could do that without realizing what you're doing, just off the top of your head. But this is a serious matter – to deal with God in this way.

So, such revealed something to a Jew was to be confessed to God, and it was to be accompanied by the sin offering in verse 5-6: "So, it shall be that when he becomes guilty of one of these, that he shall confess that in which he has sinned. He shall also bring his guilt offering to the Lord (the offering for his guilt – for his sin, which he has committed: a female from the flock, or a lamb or a goat as a sin offering. So, the priest shall make atonement on his behalf in his sin.

The confession with the Old Testament system will be made in this way. Verse 6 says, "The average sinner brings a female lamb or goat." The lamb pictures payment for sin, and, the goat picturing bearing that burden (the stronger animal) as our substitute, portraying Christ.

Verses 7-10 say that the poor Jews bring two turtle doves or two pigeons for a sin offering, Verse 7: "If he cannot afford a lamb, he shall bring to the Lord his guilt offering for that in which he has sinned: two turtle doves; and, two young pigeons – one animal and one bird for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering. What is the sin offering? That is forgiveness for unknown sinning. What is the burnt offering? That is the basis upon which God can forgive you. That's what was out in the courtyard. The animal represented the death of Christ, paying the penalty for your sin.

When God forgives us, in 1 John 1:9, it says, "He is faithful: I'll do it every time." And it says, "He is just (righteous);" that is, His Holiness is not impugned (it is not compromised). Why? How can he say I'm going to forgive you what you just did? It's because Christ paid for it out in the courtyard.

So, that's the picture here. One bird is for the sin: "My confession." I didn't realize what I was doing. The other bird, the basis upon which God can bring me that forgiveness, is the burnt offering out in the courtyard. Verse 8 says, "And he shall bring them to the priest, who shall offer first that which is for the sin offering, and shall nip its head at the front of the neck. But he shall not sever it. He shall also sprinkle some of the blood of the sin offering on the side of the altar, while the rest of the blood shall be drained out at the base of the altar. It is a sin offering.

"The second bird he shall then prepare as a burnt offering, according to the ordinance. So, the priest shall make atonement on his behalf, for his sins which he has committed, and it shall be forgiven him."

2 Corinthians 5:21: "He Who knew no sin became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God. The Jew didn't understand that. It's all here in the symbolism. We can read it back and say, "Boy, did that ever portray it?" Just these two birds – what they really portrayed, as the substitution. Somebody else paid the price, and now, as a gift to me, I'm home free.

However, if you're really a poor Jew, all you could bring was two quarts a fine meal. And verses 11-13 tell us about that: "But if his means are insufficient for two turtledoves (two young pigeons), then his offering, for that which he has sinned, he shall bring the tenth of an effort (two quarts) of fine flower for a sin offering, and he shall not put oil in it or place incense on it (a sweet savor offering to God on it). It is a sin offering." So, the exact animal, and the procedure (the ritual) is not the thing. It is what it represented – my confession that I was wrong. And it was done appropriate to a person's socio-economic status in life.

Verse 12 says, "He shall bring it to the priest. The priest shall take his handful (two quarts) of meal as a memorial portion offered up in smoke on the altar with the offering of the Lord by fire. It is a sin offering. So, the priest shall make atonement (covering) for him, concerning his sin, which he has committed from one of these. And it shall be forgiven him. Then the rest shall become the priests'," like the grain offering. The priests, what they did not use in the sacrifices, was used to sustain their own families.

So, here you can see the whole picture in the old Mosaic Law. What do you want to do? Do you want to live by the Mosaic Law ritual system, and go through all this which we've tediously gone through this morning – procedures for handling things when you did something that you didn't realize you shouldn't have done? Or do you want to go 1 John 1:9, and claim the fact that the power of the Spirit of God is already in you, and the knowledge of doctrine is stored in the mentality of your soul, so that you can be guided to make correction, and to do right? Do you know what happens? You have a good life. It's not an easy life, and not a life without difficulty. Your health is going to be a lot better. Your finances will be adequate, and maybe even luxuries. Your social life will be significant. God will weed out people that are not the commended that you ought to have. You'll have perception politically. You'll perception on world events. You will just be Christlike. Boy, would the Jew ever liked to have been Christlike. But all these symbols, part of the Law – who would want to go back to that?

Dr. John E. Danish, 1995

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