

Daily Devotional, April 28, 2020

'Bringing the Ark into the Temple', (2 Chronicles 5:7, NKJV)

“Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim” (2 Chronicles 5:7).

The ark of the covenant was the place where the localized presence of God on earth dwelt from the days of Moses until the days of Solomon, and beyond that time. It had its special place, inside the “**inner sanctuary of the temple**”, because it was the most important furnishing in the temple. Without it, the proper worship of God would neither be complete nor effective with regard to the blood atonement for sins (Leviticus 16:15,27; Hebrews 9:22).

On a few occasions, the New Testament speaks of the body as the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:21-22), so being on good ground in this regard, yet acknowledging the analogy may be imperfect in certain ways, let us draw some applications from this truth. The first and foundational application is that the temple of our body must have the ark of the (New) covenant inside, in order that we might have forgiveness of sins and peace with God. In the Old Testament worship, it would be unthinkable and sacrilegious to have anything else in the same room as the ark, where the presence of God dwelt. There was no junk in the corner of the room, nor would the ark ever be covered by a sheet, or be anywhere but in the most prominent spot in “**the Most Holy Place.**” In order to have revival, the “**temple**” must be “**purged**” of any pollution of sin (2 Chronicles 34:8). We must allow the blood of Christ to “**cleanse the rooms**” of our heart (Nehemiah 13:9; Cf. 1 John 1:9). Whether it be spiritual idolatry or covetous and worldly idolatry—there is little or no difference between the two, when you really think about it, “**what agreement has the temple of God with idols?**” (2 Corinthians 6:16; Cf. Luke 19:45). “**Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?**” (1 Corinthians 6:19). Should the God who paid for your redemption by His blood have to live in squalor in His own house? We close with an appeal to the God-given conscience. Let us confess our sins to the Lord today, with broken and contrite hearts, and in doing so, set His ark in the most prominent place of our temples—in our hearts, minds, and actions, going forward.