

The Processed Triune God, His Work, and the Result of His Work

Message 4 - Week 1

Thursday

1 Cor. 3:12-15 – Footnote 15⁴

Message two can be summarized in one word: *fire*. We saw that our God is fire. Many of us saw a new aspect of the fire for the first time. In the past, our concept of fire was something very negative. Surely fire deals with negative aspects, but there are a lot more positive aspects with the fire than negative. Saints, we must love this fire! This fire is God Himself. In the outer court of the tabernacle we see something interesting. We see the burnt offering and the laver, followed by the entrance into the Holy Place where we see the showbread table, the lampstand, and the incense altar, before the veil which separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. In Leviticus 9:24, the fire came down from heaven and lit the fire on the altar of burnt offering. That altar typifies God's mouth; God's mouth is fire. Fire is to deal with the negative things, but there is also a positive fire. It is interesting that the sacrifices for transgression all were burned there. This means that regarding judgement, God's mouth is fire. With regards to acceptance, it is also fire because the offerings were burnt. On the one hand, the sacrifices deal with our condition, but the offerings are for God's delight. When we offer something to God and He is happy, He burns it. The burnt offering was burnt completely. What came up was a satisfying aroma to God.

We should not fear God's fire. We must say, "I love this fire" because this fire is also the impulse so that we may go on in the church life. We must not have any other life pulse which is not the fire of God. Even though the priests took care of offerings and sacrifices, these were outside the tabernacle. The service in the tabernacle was just to burn the incense in God's presence. Therefore, they took the fire from the altar and took it inside and would burn the incense with the same fire. This means that the impulse for our service within the tabernacle, which typifies the church, must come only from God. That means that today, there is nothing natural that the body will accept. Any idea from our natural concept is not acceptable for the building up of the church.

Some of us have an educational background. Many studied psychology and other methods for teaching. We should never think that this will qualify us to be a teacher in the church. To depend on our natural capacity and what we learned in university and to apply it in the church is strange fire. This needs to go through the altar, be burnt, and determine if it can be useful in resurrection. If we studied psychology, don't suddenly think that this will help us in the church life. This would be strange fire. I studied drama and was a professor in drama when I came into the church life. I mentioned to the brothers that I could help out to make really good drama shows. Instead of the prophesying meeting, I could put together a really good drama show. What is this saints? Strange fire. My professional background was as a singer in a musical group with my wife, for which we would compose songs. I was also the lead singer in our musical band. Saints, with all these traits, why not create a band in the church? Strange fire.