

Christ, My Altar

Hebrews 13:10

“We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.”

In the Old Covenant, the Hebrew priests helped the people offer their sacrifices to God, and then they (the priests) would eat the leftover portions of the grain or meal offering (see Lev. 2:10; 6:16, 18, 26). Since the fall, God has never allowed man to approach Him without an altar and a sacrifice of blood. *“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins”* (Heb. 9:22). God’s justice demands death.

An altar was where God met sinful man. The blood of an innocent was applied. Notice the progression:

- 1. In the beginning it was one altar for one man.** The story of Cain and Abel points this out (Gen. 4).
- 2. After the flood it became one altar for one family.** Job is seen as a patriarch by this act (Job 1:5).
- 3. After the Exodus it became one altar for one nation.** The Hebrew nation was given the altar of God.
- 4. After the cross it became one altar for the world.** *The only acceptance with God is found in Christ.*

I. Our altar is in heaven and not on earth.

I want you to ask something: *“On what basis do I believe I am accepted by God?”* That is your altar.

A. Our altar is not a place at the front of the church building.

You can no more obtain salvation by walking down the aisle of a Baptist church to an altar than Catholics can through a pilgrimage to Rome or Muslims can through a pilgrimage to Mecca.

B. Our altar is not the table of communion.

The experience of taking communion was called an “agape supper” in the NT. People gathered around tables with joy, laughter and happiness. It was a time of celebration, remembering Christ!

C. Our altar is not even the cross.

The cross upon which our Lord was crucified was nothing more than the instrument of his torture.

D. Our altar is the resurrected Christ.

“Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea, a great high Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.” He who has an Altar in heaven needs no altar on earth.

II. Lay hold of the altar for your right standing with God.

Since Jesus Christ is the only altar that any sinner, from any nation, will ever have, then remember ...

A. Christ becomes the only place of refuge for the guilty.

“And Adonijah arose and went and took hold of the horns of the altar. Then Adonijah prostrated himself before King Solomon said to him, ‘Go to your house in peace’” (I Kings 1:50, 53).

B. Christ becomes the only place of recovery for the guilty.

The altar sanctified the gift, the sacrifice, which is placed upon it; and makes it acceptable to God. In like manner, Christ sanctifies us. He makes us who grab hold of Him by faith acceptable to God.

“Ye fools and blind: for which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift?” (Matt. 23:19).

C. Christ becomes the only place of rejoicing for the guilty.

“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness. I dare not trust _____.”

III. The ones who trust in themselves “have no right to eat.”

The phrase “those who serve the tabernacle have not right to eat” alludes to the Lord’s Supper.

“Now those who adhere to the service of the ceremonial law, they had no right to eat of Christ; the allusion is to the priest eating of the sacrifices” – John Gill. Come to the Lord’s Table in faith!