

# The Tabernacle, Christ, and the Church

## -A study through the second half of the book of Exodus-

### Historical context

The giving of instructions and construction of the Tabernacle happen after God first rescues His people from the land of slavery. God first \_\_\_\_\_ the people before He declares to them how to properly worship Him. God's mighty work is responsible for the people's salvation. Worship is always to be the response of the people to what God has done for them. It is not worship that makes us acceptable to God. God's gracious salvation makes us acceptable before Him and then worship is our response. Worship never makes us righteous before God. We are justified by grace, through faith, in Christ alone. Worship is the fruit of our justification not the reason for our justification.

Proper worship is important to God. *"God created the world in six days, but he used forty to instruct Moses about the Tabernacle. Little over one chapter was needed to describe the structure of the world, but six were uses for the Tabernacle."*-Hyde

### Theological Significance of the Tabernacle-Past, Present, and Future

#### -The past (1)- Let's go back...way back

In the beginning the Scriptures record for us how God created man to have communion with Him. \_\_\_\_\_ with man was the goal. God was amongst His people, and they were with their God. God's people were in God's place and enjoyed the sweetness of fellowship with God. However, man's rebellious transgression of God's good word led to a great chasm between God and man. Man was removed from God's place and His presence no longer is discussed as walking amongst Adam and Eve. However, when we come to the Tabernacle, we find for the first time a specific place again provided by God whereby His people might know the sweetness of being in His presence. Therefore, the Tabernacle, in a way, points us back to Eden (with obvious differences due to the stain of sin still upon the people).

#### -The past (2)- Back to Christ

For us today the Tabernacle points us back to Christ's first coming. However, when it was given by God to Moses it pointed the people forward to the coming Christ. As we will see in this study the various elements of the Tabernacle had a Christocentric focus. God was, under the veil of the Old Testament, providing a visible display of the gospel. So, in this regard, it is not wrong to think of the Tabernacle as a \_\_\_\_\_ under the Old Covenant.

**Bonus material**-Lets allow Calvin to help teach us quickly about the topic of sacraments

**What is a sacrament?** A sacrament is a "visible sign of a \_\_\_\_\_ thing or a visible form of an invisible grace...the Lord calls His promises covenants and sacraments signs of the covenants."

**Purpose of sacraments?** “Sacraments, therefore, are exercises which confirm our faith in the word of God; and because we are \_\_\_\_\_, they are exhibited under carnal objects, that thus they may train us in accommodation to our sluggish capacity, just as nurses lead children by the hand.”

**Do the sacraments themselves contain grace?** “It is certain, therefore, that the Lord offers us His mercy, and a pledge of His grace, both in sacred word and in the sacraments; but it is not apprehended save by those who receive the word and sacraments with firm \_\_\_\_\_...assurance of salvation does not depend on participation in the sacraments, as if justification consisted in it.

**Does participation in sacraments with a wrong heart really matter?** \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 11:29) “For even the cup of the Lord was poison to Judas, not because he received what was evil, but being wicked he wickedly received what was good.”

**What about NT sacraments?** The many sacraments of the OT have been fulfilled and only \_\_\_\_\_ are given to the church in the NT-baptism and the Lord’s Table.

### **-The present-The Church**

The Tabernacle was the place where God chose to have His presence reside amongst men. The Scriptures declare that the \_\_\_\_\_ is the place where God has chosen to reside amongst men in these last days.

*“The church, then, is the tabernacle, temple, and dwelling place of God. In the words of 1 Peter 2:4-10, we are the living stones Christ uses to build His new Temple. The gathering of the stones means local church assemblies are the temples of worship and the places where His witness to the world goes out.”-Hyde*

### **-The future (1)- The ascended Christ and His work**

The book of Hebrews discusses how the Tabernacle was an earthly model of a \_\_\_\_\_ reality (Hebrews 9:23-24).

### **-The future (2)- The glory that is to come**

The Tabernacle helps to point us forward to what we long for most. What we long for most is sweet \_\_\_\_\_ with God without the hindrance of sin.

*“J.R.R. Tolkien diagnoses the roots of our longing: ‘We all long for Eden, and we are constantly glimpsing it: our whole nature at its best and least corrupted, its gentlest and most humane, is still soaked with a sense of ‘exile.’ The longings of our hearts are frustrated from this exile, but these longings are properly satisfied in the dwelling place of God originally found in Eden.” -Beale*

In the Tabernacle we get a little glimpse of God’s holy presence once again dwelling with men and this stirs in us a desire for the uninterrupted glory of having His presence \_\_\_\_\_ reside with us.