

SUVISESHA DHWANI

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TWO ALTARS

K.V. issac

Tabernacles is a thing God revealed to Moses in the wilderness. The word tabernacle means "a place to meet together". God dwells in the Holy of Holies and man in the outer court. They meet together in the Holy Place. a place where God who is from heaven and man who is from earth meet together; which is known as Tabernacle. It can be divided mainly in to three parts. Among these the first one is the outer court, second is the Holy place and the third is the Most Holy Place. In the outer court there is a big place where all Israel can enter. But no normal Israelites were permitted to do service there. Only Levites coming from the family of Gershonites, Kohathites and Merarites were allowed to service there. There were difference in their service between each other. Gershonites and Merarites can carry their things in bullock carts. Gershonites had two vehicles and four bulls and Merarites had four vehicles and eight bulls were therefore their use. But Kohathites were never given vehicles or oxen for their service. Why because their duty was to carry the Ark of the Covenant and the holy instruments in the Tabernacle. This

family has to carry it upon their shoulder itself. (When Solomon built the temple of God he placed twelve bulls to carry the molten sea). In to the things which are in the temple should carry by the Kohathites must carry on staves or tie to staves and carry on their shoulders.

There are mainly five sacrifices people has to offer on the brazen altar which is in the outer court. they are burnt offering, Meat offering, Peace offering, Sin offering and trespass offering. Among these the first three are sweet savour offerings. Lord Jesus Christ achieved the redemption of sin of humanity forever through his sacrificial death. There is no more sacrifices need for our sins. However, the spiritual meaning of the sweet savour sacrifices which offered to worship God must reflect in the life and worship of believers today. Here there is no prayer rather has to bring things for offering. We have to offer it though Christ who broken for us and we don't have something to take back from house.

Next we can see the laver of brass. It is used keep water for priest to wash themselves before they enter in to holy place and for high priest before he enters in to the holy

of holies. It was made from the looking glass of the women, so used to keep water and used as a looking glass. Anyone who approaches it for washing must see all his impurities and be cleansed from it. Today anyone who comes near to the word of God are able to understand his failures and sinfulness and able to cleanse from it by the help of the Holy Spirit.

When we enter into the holy place on the right side can see the table of shew bread on which two sets of bread and each set six breads each. Only priests can eat these breads. On the left side there is a golden candle stick which has seven branches. Both Christ and Holy Spirit being light. along with the golden incense altar. This is the altar of prayer on which four sweet sense mixed together to burnt.

There is fire upon it. In this alter of insense incense must burnt every time. There is no change in position for the instruments in the tabernacle.

Today we offer sacrifice upon the alter upon which Christ was offered. And prayer upon the golden ark of incense. Prayer and worship are two different things. Our fathers

(contd. to page 2)

Are we still in the Bondage of Rituals and Customs

We have been with a heritage which was blessed in ever respect. They nourished their assemblies with the word of God and their testimony. Their spiritual vision and burden are to be appreciated always. the main reason for our spiritual lethargy is that we have lost the spiritual vision of our forefathers. It does not mean that our forefathers never had any failures in their life. But we have to realise that we are still in the bondage of many rituals. Many rhetorical speeches might have come from many and numerous articles might have written against it of which I am

not sure about. Some times our speakers might have thought that this is not a subject to be spoken in the public. But we should have a will to understand and admit what wrong. Unless we do that we will not be able to escape from this shackles.

If we think about human being as a whole we can very well say that we are a liable advisable to the customs. Most of the religions follow number of rituals. Some of the rituals might have some scientific background. But the root cause for this is the myths and beliefs. Some of the good customs have later become rituals. According to Prof. S

Guptan Nair the rituals and customs of Kerala are findings of the Brahmins which they handed over to the poor people. There are religious and social customs. Since we believe and observe certain customs right from our early childhood we have no doubt about them. According to the Bible Christians are not supposed to observe any customs and rituals. But we know many christians follow number of rituals and customs. But the true christians should analyse and study this subject based on the word of God.

In the Old Testament
(contd. to page 2)

International News

Nigeria: Iiosin a province in Nigeria is in the verge anti christian moves. Some terrorists groups have already taken their possessions against Christian missions. They fear of mass conversions since gospel meetings and Bible camps have awakened the public interest in Christ. Three casualties are already reported. Some are totally beaten up. The enemy who is aware of the end of his time is restless and active. There are two things that God's people can do. Firstly uphold the tortured children of God in prayers, Secondly do what we are expected to do for the expansion of His Kingdom.

Y M E F General Camp

General YMEF is organised a general camp in Thekkady in the high range division. This type of camps are conducted bi-yearly in different divisions. The camp will be conducted in the Holy Day Home Kumily from 9th Tuesday to 13th Saturday of September 2008. Bro. Varghese Kurian, Bro. Chandapilla Philip, Bro. Jose Mathew and Jose Mankudy will be ministering. Camp sessions will be enriched with Bible classes, Character study, Missionary meeting, Devotions, Group Prayer, singing secessions, Bible quizzes, question answers session and testimonies. All brothers are welcome to the camp. We solicit your prayer and financial supports. Kindly send your contributions by cheque in favour of YMEFA/C No. 20040125, Catholic Syrian Bank, Kavour Branch (Kozhikode) to the General Treasurer
Mailing Address: **Paul P Scaria, A/9 Vrindavan Hsg.Colony, Chevayoor P O, Kozhikode, 673017**
For more details about the camp please contact **Sabu Mathew, Kalayil House Anyartholy P O, Idukki Dist 685575. Phone: 9847767257 or 04868270281.**

For the Immediate Attention of the Believers

Beware of false news letter and false publicities spread through electronic media. Take conscious so that you may not be deceived by cheats who are up to seize money in the name of the gospel work and mission activities. It is the responsibility of the givers to make sure that the money goes to genuine purposes only.

A PLACE OF REST ON EARTH?

The extreme destructive power of flood, wind and fire is sometimes beyond all limits. If we look to the Bible and history, we can see that the Omnipotent God has used these natural powers to judge the world which was brimming with sin. According to the scholars of Bible the deluge of at the time of Noah has been referred in more than six hundred books. Never before or after such a destruction was caused in the world due to flood. The window of the heaven opened and because of the torrential rain all the foundations of the great deep broken up and all the valleys were covered with flood. All big buildings and tall trees fell down. Hills and mountains were covered by flood. Not an inch of the earth was spared from the heavy flood. The compassionate God pleaded with the world for 120 years. But the humanity as a whole ignored the Lord who is slow to anger and who is full of mercy. So the righteous God had no other alternative. So he judged the world and gave a severe punishment. All living beings were killed in the deluge of infinite destructive power.

The ancient world had only one means to escape and that was the Ark built by Noah. The people who did not believe the words of Noah about rain rushed to the ark to escape from the torrential rain. Thousands came to the ark with the hope of getting in to the ark. But by the time they reached there God Almighty closed the entrance of the ark. As the water rose the ark which can be compared to a big ship began to float in the waters. The heavy down pour continued for forty days and forty nights and the water level continued to rise for 150 days. Only after 7 1/2 months the high peaks of the high mountains began to show its presence. After the ark rested on the mount Ararat. Noah opened a window of the ark; to know the level of water he sent a raven out in to sun. It went out and came until the day it found a good feast. Then it never came back. At the same time Noah sent forth a dove. It could not find a resting place. After seven days he again sent that dove out to the

field. The dove fulfilled its mission and came back to Noah with a green Olive leaf. Noah understood that the water level had reduced on the earth.

Noah sent both the raven and the dove with a mission to find out the level of water. The raven which was flying forth and back found some thing which was so pleasant to its appetite. the rotten bodies of men and women and animals were all good food to it. When it got what it wanted it simply forgot the ark, the animals of the ark and even its own mate. But the dove could not stand the foul smell of the rotten and decomposed bodies. Both of these birds were in the ark, and both were sent out with the same purpose, but what a difference in their experience.

Dear saints God has saved and kept us on the earth with a definite purpose. But are we not attracted to the momentary pleasures of the world. Shall we ask this question to us. Many a time haven't we forgotten the ark and its owner and haven't we paid more attention to the world and its worldliness. Are we not like Hymanaeus or Alexander whose ship of faith have wrecked because of their love to the world? We know this earth is full immorality, injustice, restlessness and corruption. Can we have resting place in such a world? No, never. He has redeemed us from all our sins with a purpose for that redemption. He has given a big price. As the dove we are supposed to return to the Ark and its master with Olive leaves. Good and faithful servant, enter into my peace and happiness. these are the words that He wanted to tell us. This is the rest that the Lord is preparing for us. A day is fixed for us to stand before him that is the judgement seat of Christ. There, let us try to win this appreciation and praise. Let us lead a life honest and faithful in His sight and let us work faithfully for Him. Our rest is in Him not in this world which is kept for fire.

V.S. Mathew

(Two Altars...contd from page 1)

were people who understood it. Therefore they recognized worship, praise, hymn, prayers separately and worshiped Spirit of God in truth and spirit. We get redemption through faith on the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Not through prayer. On the altar of incense we are not offering worship of redemption but prayer. God give us freedom and privilege to come near to it through His son Jesus Christ.

God has given us priesthood not high priestly position. When we come near to the ark of the incense can see the ark of the covenant because the veil is removed. When we say in worship. The ark of the incense and the sweet incense are present means in worship the sweet smell of prayer is available, no voices of prayers. The sweet smelling savour must raise from the altar of incense.

From wherever an Israelite pray it reach to this altar of incense priest must burnt incense every morning and evening upon this altar. When the high priest go into the holy of holies with the blood of the atonement of sin he did it for him and for the people he came to the altar of incense but the sweet incense which are there into the incense in his hand and

burn it from the fire in the altar of incense and enter in to the most holy place and sprinkle the blood and atone for sin within the smoke. This savour is his peoples prayers. The basis of this savour is the fire from the altar of incense as well as the sweet savour incense. We can know it a Christ from the gospel of John Chapter 17. Jesus Christ himself is the alter of sweet smelling savour for us. In the presence of the Gather he advocates for us. (1Jh 2:12; Heb 6:19,20). Today the Lord is telling us to offer prayer upon this alter. (Jn 16:24). there we have to offer prayer not worship (Matt 18:18-20) The matter of worship we can see in John's gospel Chapter 4. We have to worship God in the Spirit and truth also refer Colo 1:13. The altar of prayer and the alter of worship are placed in two different places. In worship there is no sorrow. Christ who defeated the sin and death whose death and burial, resurrection second coming the salvation achieved through Christ, The remembrance of the suffering he undergone to achieve it, is the basis of worship. When Israelities brought the first fruit it turned in to an historic event the harvest is festival and the resurrected Christ is the central theme of our worship.

When we worship the risen Lord we have the hope fill in our heart that we will also rise again and be with him forever. When we see Rev 5:8-9 we don't see any prayers rather only offering. So we cannot agree with prayers in the worship. One has to offer worship upon the alter for sacrifice and offer prayers upon the ark of incense because there is no alternation in the position of instruments in tabernacle. We should not displace it. We are obliged to do the system God has given to us. Only in that God will be pleased. If we do so we will be blessed based on that. Fire in there in the tabernacle so no one need to bring it. What the church of god has to do today only need to worship the spirit of God in truth and in spirit has to offer sacrifice of evangelism, live according to the word of god. there is no sorrow and crying and no need of it. Beyond that there is a lamp and a golden alter. There we have the freedom and privilege to offer our prayers. It rises in to gods presence as a sweet smelling aroma. When this is truth lets pray for those drift away from it. Those who read it if not understood it let them allow Philipose in the chariot and know the truth in time and obey it.

(obliged)

(Are we still in the Bondage...contd from page 1)

we can see a number of customs and covenants. Ten commandments, Book of covenant, Code of holiness together make the Old testament. Their life and worship was filled with festivals, rituals and customs. Even their social life was formed on this. While they are supposed to observe all there custom they have to keep of from the rituals of the gentiles. But the spiritual life of the New Testament is not based on works and customs but on faith. Since Christ has committed Himself as an atonement on the Calvary no more sacrifices are needed. We the believers are expected to observe only baptism and Lords Supper.

Many social customs still persist even among the Brethren. Though we do not have any written customs many of them are like that. Even the conventions have degraded to be a certain regular custom. For many saints they live as they please during the week. But an sunday they are active. Many assembly meetings have nothing spiritual. They have everything in stereo typed format. For example two songs, two prayers, Reading the Psalm by the elders etc. These are a few examples. Moreover certain statements during Lords supper is stunning against the Word of God. Wiping the face after the baptism is forbidden. The arguement that we have to use personal cups during

Lords supper to save us from contagious diseases is another one. It is to be doubled that we may change some of the stanzas of the beautiful hymns according to our whims and fancies.

Until recently people of Kerala used to work very hard in their fields from dawn to dusk. But in the evening the family as a whole came together at the table for the family prayer and dinner. But now everything has changed. People have all the modern amenities at the fingertip. Evenings are spent before the Television. Family prayer is not at all regular in the house of the believers. Most of the women folk are dedicating their time to soap operas like 'Sthri' woman. But people spent some time now for family prayer because of the powercut. Thanks to the government for it.

Our forefathers left their bad habits of drinking, smoking but many continued in the chewing of tobacco and other similar things. On one hand they claimed that they left everything but some of the sins followed them. We ignored it by giving them soft names like weakness or human limitations. Are we proud of those things? I am not forgetting their good spiritual qualities like love, principles, and spirituality. I do never dishonour them. Are we worse than the former gen-

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Kottarakkara: A gospel camp is proposed to be conducted in Mathirapalli (Chettikodu) in Alappuzha district from 23rd to 25th October 2008. The camp will be organized by Y M e F South division. Kindly pray for this camp

Jacob P Mathew 0474 2457707, 9847000691

SB S News

A special camp of teen agers (14-19 years) is to be conducted on 8th and 9th of October 2008. The camp will be organized by Suvisheshakan Balasangam Pathanamthitta Centre.

Monachan Abraham 0468 2305377

Satgamaya Telecast 150th Episode

Satgamaya is a Malayalam T V talk show passe a milestone. The show is telecasted through Kairali peoples channel on Fridays 4.30PM to 5PM.

It was started as a short term project for 3 months. But by God's grace it has completed its third year now. Several lacs of people are understanding the love of God through this ministry. Several inquiry letters are being received every week. Correspondence course and follow up works are being done by several of our evangelists. Thus believers are added to our assemblies in many places.

Satgamaya was telecasted through Power vision channel also for some time. Selected episodes can be seen in webside : **bahrainbrethren.com**.

If God willing in the near future Audios of the programmes will be telecast through radio and episodes to be printed as tracts and also copies as VCDs for distribution. Sathgamaya is taking a new turn in its course. It was a prayer and burden of the brethren in these days to have this programme in Hindi also. With the help of our brethren in North India the program is telecasted in Hindi through ZEE TV Channel on Mondays from 6.30 a.m to 7.00a.m. Please continue to pray and support this ministry as the spirit of God allows.

George Koshy

Evangelists Prayer Meeting

Pathanapuram: Monthly prayer meeting of evangelists will be conducted on Tuesday 2nd of September 2008 from 10.00 AM onwards at Perumvazhi Edakkad Brethren Church Hall

K V Joh Pathanapuram

Kottayam: It is decided to conduct a prayer meeting of the evangelist who work in Kottayam district on September 2, 2008 at brethren Church Hall, Chingavanam. All evangelists are requested to attend the meeting.

M E Rajappan 9495735113

Ernakulam: The fellowship meeting of the evangelist of Ernakulam district is conducted once in three months will be organised in August 28 from 10.00Am at Panakkad church hall

Evg. K M Thankachen 0485271853

Bible Sahithya Pravarthaka Samathi one day seminar

Ranni: Bible Sahithya Pravarthaka Samathi a fellowship of Christian writers and readers is organizing a one day seminar on 30th September 2008. from 9.30-3.30 PM at brethren Auditorium ranni. Bro. Thomaskutty Kuruvila, Bro. Lijo Varghese and Bro. K C. Mathew will make lectures on spiritual values and christian writers

For details contact: C T Johnkutty 9447601955

Bihar: Bihar Believers Cinfrence will be conducted in October 6-9, 2008 under the responsibility of Bagusaral Church. The theme is "I and my family will serve the Lord". Bro Samuel Kurian, Chandapilla Philip, Rajan Thomas, Shalu T Ninan will give lectures. Please pray for this ministry.

Pathanamthitta: The monthly prayer meeting of the churches in Pathanamthitta district is scheduled to be conducted on August 30, 2008 from 10 AM onwards at Salem Brethren Church, Mylapra

C C Varghese 04682324817

(Are we still in the Bondage..contd from page 2)

eration? Once a believer never dared to go to a theatre to watch a movie. But today many homes are home theatres. They even invite their neighbours to have fun. We are often tempted to watch these things. Bible calls it as revellings which is a fruit of the flesh. The rich nations of the world have already lost their balance because of it. It can do serious damage to the faith and testimony of the believers also. One day we have to give account for all these in front of our Saviour.

The younger generation may not be conscious of the times like 'Rahu'. But our forefathers observed these things. We still observe a lot of customs in relation to marriage. Bargaining for dowry, number of customs like giving new clothes- Katch kodukkal, Cake cutting, exchange of kalyana kurries. Entry in to the home with a definite right foot, giving milk and actions and dancing according to the instruction of the camera man, changing of sarees etc. are all part of certain rituals and customs. Bringing daughters for delivery (after offering gift and big feast) that also in a special month and on an auspicious day, wearing ceremony of waist lace on 28th day etc. What all things. For many of these some of the elders or so called elders give leadership. Are all these things suitable for a believer? Are we not blindly following the society and its social custom from which we are supposed to be separated.

Greediness is compared to idol worship by Apostle Paul. How many idols do you and I have? Many believers have accepted their heroes, artists, sportsman etc. What a pathetic condition of the believer! Our whole life is to be consecrated to the Lord but how much we have done it. The Lord of Glory's position have been given to many others.

When we select a place for the digging of the world people select branches of a particular tree. Like wise when we enter a new home the function starts with the boiling of milk. These are all certain customs of the worldly people. But the brethren people are also observing all these rituals. It is a lamentable situation as our part if we do live like the 'Egyptians'.

Most often we do think that adultery, murder and smoking are major sins. But many believers still live in other major sins. But most often we do not give importance to it. When Apostle Paul writes to Timothy about it "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double tongued, not given much to wine, not greedy and filthy (1 Timothy 3:9). And also we read adultery fornication uncleanness lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance emulations wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelling and such like shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Gala 5:19-21. Many elders speak of selfless love and pure doctrine. But many have gone astray. But no one has ever moved a finger against any of them in the past. Many people spread scandals about fellow believers. Can any one take any disciplinary action against them? Sometimes we are bold enough to take actions about some but not against all.

It is clear that we are not able to abandon all our tradition and its customs. We still carry some of them with us. Some of them have already become superstitious. Let no man therefore judge you in meat or in drink or in respect of holyday or of the new moon or of the sabbath days. Colo 2:16. We have been redeemed from the worthless traditions with the blood of Christ. So we should not be like the gentiles the people of darkness. Let us be like the children of light and live not according to the traditions, custom and rituals but live a holy life by obeying the word of God.

Obliged

The following ministries are scheduled to be conducted in connection with Gospel Hall, Pathanamthitta.

1. **Hospital Visitation:** Sisters visit the hospitals in Pathanamthitta on every first Tuesday of each month.
2. **Fasting Prayer** - 6th September 2008 9.00 AM-1.00 P M
3. **Sisters Camp** - September 11 2008 to 12, 2008 Classes Conducted by Bro. K V John Thiruvalla and Sis.Elizabeth John
4. **Combined worship** of Assemblies September 14,2008 10.00AM -1.00 PM.

Message by **K V John**

K A Philip



In the Battle Field

Human life is a battle. The fighting which was started in Eden still continues. We can see three major foes against man. Christian life is compared to a battle by Apostle Paul and he gives a list of armour that we require to wear to fight against the Arch enemy and his army. Unless we stand with Christ we cannot succeed in this battle. Christian who suffers like a true soldier can only attain the real victory. In short the christian life we have to deny ourselves and we have to be with Him and fight the battle with His help.

When the Olympic games were started the victorious were given a crown of flowers as a present. We know that the flowers will fade away. Once a sportsman from Sparta of Greece took part in the Olympics and won the medal. A special privilege was given in for the winners. They had been given a chance to fight in the battle field along with their king. Once somebody asked him "What did you get from the victory? His polite reply was that he was given a chance to be with His king in the battle. This was the greatest desire of any athlete or a soldier there. But what about you today?

In 1849 Garibaldi, conquered the city of Rome. Then he said to his men that there would be poverty suffering death and such like thing. Nothing more than that. Dear children of God we are all soldiers of the kingdom of Heaven. The Lord was so gracious to select us the weak and the fools, the incapable and inefficient as His soldiers. The love and mercy showered on us by our saviour is beyond all measures. We are selected to please Him. If we have to please Him then we have to fight for His kingdom in all circumstances. "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life nor ageles which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8:38,39. Many who joined hands with Apostle Paul during His missionary journey left him in between because of the suffering. The disciples of our Lord too left Him. So Apostle Paul said "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course.....". He is waiting for the crown which will never fade. So let us be with Him and fight with Him to the end for His promise is that He will be with us to the end. He is with us and He will be with us. So victory is ours and ours alone

T V S