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*Holiness Writers*

# **THE ALTAR**

By

*William Baxter Godbey*

*“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without  
which no man shall see the Lord” Heb 12:14*

**Spreading Scriptural Holiness to the World**

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# **THE ALTAR**

By

**William Baxter Godbey**

Author of

New Testament Commentaries

New Testament Translation

and a great number of  
other books and booklets

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Perfect and eternal abandonment to God is the only available palladium against damnation, the common lot of Satan's captives in every land and nation, as well as every age, from creation to the last generation who will ever tread the earth; from the simple fact, that God created us all in Adam; Eve no exception to that unity of creation, as she was not a de novo creation; but a transformation of Adam's rib, and consequently created in Adam. Therefore you see from these facts that woman is the second blessing in creation; man having been formed out of the earth and has always demonstrated his earthly trend by his spiritual weakness; whereas the woman who was metamorphosed out of man; thus superinduced by the double refinement of the original material and has in every age and nation demonstrated her moral and spiritual superiority. In my four journeys around the historic world and across this continent immemorially, I have learned when wanting information appertaining to my travels, to ask a woman instead of a man; as the latter has sometimes told men falsehoods and gotten me bewildered, and the former never. (Read my woman preacher) As God commands me, 2 Tim. 2: 2, "Whatsoever thou hast learned, commit thou to faithful people, who shall be competent to teach others and in His providence. This my 198th book, all telling people the sure way to heaven. Consequently, though I do not consider myself a book agent, as I circulate none but my own writings, auxiliary to my preaching because since I began 62 years ago I have learned that I may tell the people orally how to get saved, sanctified and make sure of heaven as I always do; it goes in at one ear and out at the other. Whereas if they read it in a book, they will reread it till they get it so deep down in the soul that Satan never succeeds in robbing them, and consequently I scatter my own writings with no motive but to preach in that way; gladly giving the purchaser every cent an agent could make by selling them; as I do not own them, but they belong to the publishers.

As in my peregrination over the earth I have often gotten into perils of robbers, picking my pockets, and taking my money before I had an opportunity to send it away. Therefore I only keep enough to buy our tickets to our next point, lest the thieves get it. Having preached a week in our Holiness College at Ruskin, Tenn. and run out in an automobile 9 miles to the depot; inquiring the distance to Meridian, Miss. my next appointment, they told me too short and consequently I did not keep enough money to make the run. Arriving at Jackson, Tenn., and proceeding to buy the second ticket, I lacked 45 cents. I first try the agent to loan it, then a grocery man next to the depot; signally failing, I say to a policeman: "send me to the Methodist parsonage at once." Halting a car that moment he shouts to the conductor, "Put this man off at the Methodist parsonage." In two minutes I am there and shout to the sister on the verandah my troubles, when she says her husband is absent and runs to get her money and has only ten cents. Oh how precious the fleeting moments as I want to catch my train!

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# **THE ALTAR**

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## **Chapter 1**

### **THE ALTAR SANCTIFIES THE GIFT**

Matt. 23:29, Abraham is throughout the Bible cognomened the father of the faithful; thus signally honored with the human paternity of all God's children. Consequently that great commandment, (Eph. 6:1) "children obey your parents in the Lord should be heroically and faithfully verified by every Christian as well as exemplified in our lives. Therefore we should diligently study the biology of Father Abraham, who in the providence of God was the happy recipient of the traditional Bible long before it was written by inspired Moses (3582 years ago) then consisting of that wonderful nucleus, the Pentateuch which if you visit the Holy Land with me (D. V. April 1st, 1918) you will be permitted to hold in your hand; as it is still miraculously preserved in the Samaritan convent in Shechem in the Valley of Succoth, between Mt. Gerizim and Ebal and I have a number of times had it in my hands. As Abraham was fifty years old when Noah went to heaven, who was a contemporary of Methuselah, who served as one of the pall bearers at the funeral of father Adam, during the wonderful ministry of Enoch, whom God honored with a fiery chariot and a glorious balloon ride to the New Jerusalem, beyond the glittering stars. Hence you see father Abraham was a prominent telegraph post along the line of inspired truth, orally transmitted from Adam to Moses, who wrote the Bible; thus giving the whole world a glorious sunburst flashing out all needed information to qualify every mortal soul, not only to reach the King's highway of holiness; but to travel it heroically and shout his way through the pearly portals, receive a starry crown that will never fade away, but accumulate new luster through the flight of eternal ages.

Abraham was justified in his native land, Chaldea, long antecedently to his visible church membership, designated by the rite of circumcision now symbolic baptism and it was accounted unto him righteousness." Rom. 4 ch., and Gen. 15 ch. you have the thrilling history of his sanctification. The altar is really the visible church, which was long used by Abel and his successors, before they ever thought of erecting an edifice around it to protect the worshipper from inclement weather. Abel offered on it nothing but the bleeding lamb, symbolizing "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world," bleeding and dying on rugged Calvary. God accepted his sacrifice and gave him the witness of the Spirit; meanwhile Cain, whose offering was so much more costly, magnitudinous and fantasmagorical than Abel's was rejected, because it had not blood. It is horrific to contemplate the platoons of preachers in the pulpit, denouncing, ridiculing and even anathematizing the "mourner's bench," i.e. the altar, and the deluded people joining their church and running away to the creek to get the water god to remit their sins; in every case finding him weak as water, which should indubitably convince them of their utter failure and renew their convictions which have been unfortunately quenched by the cold water, and thus seeing the utter futility of their efforts to get saved by church joining confession, and immersion and bravely renew their efforts to seek the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, till they find Him in the clear experimental knowledge of sins forgiven and the new heart given, all clearly witnessed by the blessed Holy Spirit.

As I was reared in the hot bed of Calvinism, and the first twenty years of my life, heard them preach four times as much as all other people and attend their great revivals, which they would always begin by denouncing and abusing the "mourner's bench," i.e. the altar, ridiculing the Holy Ghost and lampooning experimental religion, till they felt they had the victory and convinced the people there were no such things. Then they would preach with all their might on hell and damnation, shaking the sinner over a bottomless hell and an eternity of woe; anon contrasting the horrors of hell bottomless and irretrievable with a glorious heaven, topless and eternal, assuring them they have nothing to do, but quit their evil habits, i.e. reform in Campbell translation and of course no salvation in it as the devil and the demons can reform but can't repent as that means to get rid of the carnal satanic mind and receive the mind of Christ, which the Holy Ghost alone can give them. In those meetings I have seen them rush forward and join the church by dozens, scores and hundreds; sadly revealing by their lives the woeful fact that they had not received anything, but lost the conviction which the Holy Spirit had in mercy given them, whom they had grieved away, when instead of yielding it, they had gone away after the water god, thus landing in idolatry. The word church, *ecclesia*, from *ek*, out, and *kalioo*, to call, simply means the called out people, i.e. those who have heeded the call of the Holy Ghost, come out of this wicked world, "to seek the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength, till they find Him" and thus receive intelligent salvation, clearly witnessed by the Holy Spirit, better than we know anything else, as this preeminent knowledge, free from all doubt is peculiar to everything God does for us, in our faithful and humble efforts to seek Him, till we find Him. Satan, the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4), resorts to every conceivable stratagem, to defeat and evanesce the convictions which the Holy Spirit responsively to the intercessions of Jesus, gives to every soul and at the same time offer them some vain substitute, in this country generally immersion, which you cannot find in the Bible (Old or New) to save your life, nor any other word which has that meaning ever used for baptism. While all the Bible baptisms are all sprinklings (Ezek. 36:25) where we have the commission in prophecy, given 700 years antecedently to Matthew in which we see the conversion twice and sanctification twice, so no one can fail to see them, as we have them both to go to heaven, and both beautifully symbolized by sprinkling clean water upon you (also Psa. 77; Isa. 52:15 and Heb. 9:19) thus in both Testaments giving sprinkling the mode of symbolic baptism, all right in its places but having nothing to do with salvation: from the simple fact constantly revealed in the Bible that Jesus alone can save, whose omnipotence needs no help, and it is an insult to His sovereign majesty to offer Him any help. Oh, how the Holy Spirit is grieved when you bring in Catholic priests, Campbellite preachers or Mormon prophets to help Jesus save. He created this world with multiplied millions more (Eph. 1st ch.). Astronomy reveals 2,170,000,000 million worlds revolving around 200,000,000 suns and give as their heaviest conviction that all these with immeasurable satellites constitute but the suburbs of the celestial universe as the telescope rests on vast fields of nebulas in star-dust; believed to be suns; to the other mundane systems; so infinitely distant as to be unindividualizable by the most powerful telescope.

Repudiation of the altar, i.e. the mourner's bench is down right infidelity and what an awful pity the Campbellite church, under the seductive cognomen "Christian," captures so many people into the vain delusion, that they become Christians, by joining and baptism, without seeking and finding the Lord, as the Bible says, that every one who seeks him with the whole heart does find Him; their great dogma immersion for remission, really their idol, weak as water is without the shadow of support in the Bible; all the Scriptures on which they found their arguments, either wrong

translations, interpolations or the baptism of the Holy Ghost which Jesus gives and every soul must receive or go to hell, the one baptism, Eph. 4:5, Acts 2:38, "repent and be baptized, every one of you for the remission of your sins," they use more than any other; utterly misconstruing it as repent, *metanemasate* is imperative mode, second person, plural number and applies to every human being, signifying an exchange of the carnal mind, i.e. Satan's mind with which we are born, for the mind of Christ, created in the heart, by the Holy Ghost in regeneration; and is man's side of the salvation plan, as you see preached by John the Baptist and Jesus all the time. "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," showing that is all we have to do to enter the Kingdom. The people who have repented of all their sins are forgiven freely for Christ's sake and ready for baptism because they are Christians and it is God's mark on his sheep and we have no right to put it on the Devil's goats. Hence the baptism of sinners to make them Christians is open antagonism to God's holy Word and awfully grievous to the Holy Spirit. This conclusion is confirmed by the subsequent part of that verse where in E. V. we have a wrong translation, "be baptized" grammatically and logically coordinate with repent, which is utterly untrue, as the Greek *ekatos humoon baptithetoo*, let each of you be baptized, i.e. each one of you who has repented and no one else, as the distributive pronoun *ekatos* has for its antecedent the subject of *nieta moasate*, repent. Consequently in this passage we have no right to baptize any but the people who have repented and become citizens of the Kingdom and entitled to the badge of citizenship, which is symbolic baptism, representing the only baptism in the plan of salvation, which Jesus gives to Christians only to sanctify them for Heaven, and you see as He always baptizes by effusion and the sign is to harmonize with the thing signified, knocking immersion beyond the North Pole and establishing effusion as the Bible made.

We must come by way of the altar, giving all of our sins to the Devil, from whom we got them and to whom they belong, and putting ourselves, soul and body for time and eternity on the altar; thus radically and unconditionally turned over to God. Then as Christians, we must utterly abandon to God to be used in the interest of His Kingdom: "Here I give my all to thee, friends and time and earthly store, soul and body thine to be, wholly thine forever more. Wash me in the Saviour's precious blood, cleanse me in the purifying flood, Lord I give to thee, my all to be thine for time and eternity." Every Christian is a spiritual son or daughter of Abraham, the father of the faithful, Rom, 4 ch. we are to walk in his steps. When he was seeking sanctification Gen. 15 ch. God promised him all the land of Canaan, flowing with milk and honey and abounding with corn and wine, as a brilliant, temporal souvenir of the glorious sanctified experience, he was then about to receive and gave him specific information relative to the consecration, pertinent to put him on believing ground, where he has nothing to do but receive it by simple faith, gloriously witnessed by the fiery baptism; the bells of heaven ringing from top to toe, "Sanctified wholly" I Thess. 5:23. Now be sure you here walk in the steps of father Abraham. In this chapter you see he specifies the sacrifices he was to make, a blood red heifer, symbolizing the grace side of the atonement through the blood of our wonderful Christ, flowing on Calvary; a she-goat, symbolizing the sin side of the atonement and a ram, symbolizing our perfect unconditional submission to God, to spend and be spent in the interest of His kingdom through time and eternity.

The animals all three years old, correspondingly with our Saviour's ministerial triennium, and a dove, and a pigeon. He was to divide the animals, but not the birds. As the blood-red heifer without spot or blemish, brilliantly signified the redeeming blood destined to crimson Calvary and so prominent throughout the typical dispensation. Josephus certifying that it was a common thing to

offer 25 thousand lambs during a single Passover, which was 1500 years thus giving the enormous number of 370 million innocent lambs, bleeding, all thus adumbrating the Lamb of God on the rugged cross, pouring out His precious blood to redeem the numberless millions, of Adam's ruined race. Solomon on the dedication of the temple, sacrificed 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep, thus rivers of blood, quantity substituted for quality, all typifying the dying Lamb on Calvary.

The goat symbolizes the sin side of the atonement. On the 10th Day of the 7th month they celebrated the great day of the Atonement; the millions of Israel, tented on the holy campus, 35 acres of holy ground, surrounding the temple which faced the rising sun, and they brought these goats upon the lofty porticoes, conspicuous to the host, when the High Priest taking charge of the one, slew him in the presence of all the people; having already ceremonially transferred the sins of the people to the goat; then taking the other, ceremonially transferring the sins of the people to him; did not slay him but committed him to a man deputized to lead him far away into the howling wilderness beyond the track of human foot, and there turn him loose and there let him go wild, there never to be seen by mortal eyes; thus becoming the scapegoat, carrying the sins of the people so far away, that they could never get back to becloud their heavenly hopes, nor condemn them at the Judgment Bar; thus symbolizing the risen Saviour, flying far away to heaven, having already finished the work of human redemption in His vicarious substitutionary atonement on Calvary; having actually redeemed every Son and daughter of Adam's ruined race; so perfectly, triumphantly and satisfactorily as to eternally preclude the apology for the damnation of a solitary soul, settling the conclusion, forever irrefutable that no one will go to hell who will let God save him as He loves every sinner so ineffably as to give His only Son, to come from heaven, take his place, bleed and die to redeem him from sin, death, and hell. "Oh for this love, that rocks and hills their lasting silence breaks and all harmonious human tongues their Saviour's praises speak. Angels assist our mighty joys, strike all your harps of gold, but when you reach your highest notes, His love can ne'er be told!"

Reader be sure you take the affirmative side of this problem, put all on the altar, throwing yourself in for good count and only sorry that you cannot millionfy yourself for Him who has done everything for you and thus raise the shout,

"I've found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me,  
The fairest of ten thousand to my soul,  
The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see,  
All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.  
In sorrow, He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay;  
In temptation He's my strong and mighty tower!

I've all for Him forsaken, and all my idols torn,  
From my heart, and now He keeps me by His power!  
Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempt me sore,  
Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal.  
He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and morning star  
The fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

He'll never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here,  
While I live by faith and do His blessed will;  
A wall of fire around me, I've nothing now to fear,  
With His manna, He my hungry soul shall fill!  
Then sweeping up to glory, I'll see His blessed face,  
Where rivers of delight shall ever roll;

He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and morning star,  
The fairest of ten thousand to my soul."

We see in this sacrifice the specification not to divide the birds from the significant fact that the Holy Ghost represented by the dove is none other than very and eternal God, and consequently forever indivisible, and the pigeon is yourself, when can never be divided, because you are all the Lord's and no chance for any division, as the devil is eternally defeated and can never have any part of you. You see here, that the Holy Ghost is in your consecration, which means an eternal Yes to God; no defalcation about it.

Early in the Movement, as Kentucky and Georgia were the first states in Dixie Land to receive it, I preached all over them. In the latter, in a glorious revival, a man was having a hard time at the altar seeking sanctification and his consecration he saw old, dark Africa with its cannibals, crocodiles, lions, leopards, boa-constrictors, 100 feet long, big around the body as a mule and ready to eat up a dozen people for breakfast and want as many more for supper. (Wonderful change in 30 years, since missionaries have gone thither; but then it was the terror of the nations, Bishop Taylor there alone calling for help.) We exhorted this man to accept the situation and shout over it resting assured that the Lord made no mistakes. The trouble in his case was, that he was 40 years old, had a large family who needed his care at home. Finally he made a raffle and tided over into Beulah Land with tremendous shouts of victory, bidding his old friends farewell as he was off for Africa. The Lord will not tell His secrets to carnal people, till they get sanctified wholly, as they would not know what to do with them. After this brother had shouted a few days the Lord speaks to him and tells him that he does not want him to go to Africa, but lead the embattled hosts in Georgia; when he said, "Why I thought you wanted me to go to Africa, as I could not see anything else in my consecration, but the old dark Continent swinging before me." When He responds, "Oh no, I just wanted you to be willing to go there or anywhere else and now I see you are willing and so stay at home and push the battle, till I call you elsewhere." We must remember in this consecration unreservedly say Yes to the Holy Ghost all the way through, if it takes off our right hands, plucks out right eyes; resting assured that He cannot make a mistake. Consequently we should shout jubilantly over His *ipse dixit*.

You are the pigeon, undivided and all the Lord's, for time and eternity, the most migratory animal on the earth; bred on the northern lakes and Canadian moors; he rises and flies from the winter he has never seen; pursuing his undeviating way toward the tropical sun, till he plunges into the Equatorial sea and bathes his gaudy pinion in tepid waves. In my boyhood an old fortune teller claiming to predict oncoming life told me I would be a great traveler. As in the providence of God I was happily converted through the instrumentality of my shouting Methodist mother, as I sat in her lap and she preached to me the everlasting gospel with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, which I received indubitably and jubilantly; meanwhile she told me she had given me to the Lord

for a preacher and He had received me, as she had heard from heaven. Having perfect confidence in her veracity, I took it all in and that early day heard the call from heaven which never ceased to ring in my ears; illustrating the transcendent importance of infantile conversion, thus heading off the devil, as in my case, so he never caught me with the fatal lasso of wicked habits, which expedite the swift damnation of millions, even in childhood and youth, thus sealing their doom for a wicked life of sin and misery, a hell in which to go to hell, coronated in irretrievable woe. This explains a fact paradoxical to my friends and acquaintances, appertaining to my superabounding labor in His vineyard; preaching these sixty two years, traveling 15 thousand miles, four times round the historic world and from the Atlantic to the Pacific immemorially; this my 198th book, all on Bible Holiness, taking in my travels, harmonically in Jerusalem and the Bible Lands, at the cost of a princely fortune, which I never inherited, nor was I ever in any time in life rarely worth any money; as I became a Bible reader at the early age of six years, hearing my Saviour say in His wonderful sermon on the Mount, "lay not for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust corrupt, and thieves break through and steal, but lay up treasures in heaven, where neither moth or rust doth corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal; but where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

Human souls are the only treasures we can lay up in heaven. Therefore I have thus invested every cent of my life work in the merchandise of heaven's kingdom; peregrinating the globe; blowing the silver trumpet in the ears of Christians, Mohammedans, Pagans, Catholics and sinners heterogeneously, singing,

"No foot of land do I possess,  
Nor cottage in the wilderness;  
A poor wayfaring man, I wonder to and fro  
And camp a while in tents below,  
"Till I my heaven gain."

And if I had funeral money today, it would all go for the evangelization of a lost world, to support the missionaries, remembering as Livingstone, the African apostle so pertinently said, "God had but one Son and He was a missionary." I would have been rich as easily as poor. Millionaires long ago told me there was a fortune in the publication of my books and asked me why I did not publish them; I said financial inability; when the response came back that it was no excuse, as I had nothing to do, but take in a financial partner and my share of the profit would make me rich, I am glad I declined the offer as it would have made me a business man, grievous to the Holy Spirit, who has made me nothing but a preacher; at it night and day, on land and sea in every nation as I circumnavigate the globe, while my authorship of books, everyone telling the sure way to heaven is superabounding, as Pastor Martin, First Nazarene Church, Chicago, said to his eight hundred members when I was preaching for him, that more people were reading books written by our humble servant, than any other man living or dead, which inspired a moment's reflection on my part, remembering that when

I first reached Jerusalem, twenty years ago, so electrifying my longing spirit, to find myself in the Holy City, I broke out singing,

"I have reached the land of corn and wine  
And all its riches freely mine;  
There shines undimmed one blissful day  
Where all my night has passed away.

"My Saviour comes and walks with me  
And sweet communion here have we.  
He gently leads me by His hand  
For this is heaven's border land.

"A sweet perfume upon the breeze  
Is born from ever vernal trees,  
While flowers never fading glow  
And streams of life forever flow.

"The Zephyrs seem to float to me,  
Sweet songs of heaven's melodies  
While angels in their white robed throngs,  
Join in the sweet redemption song."

But how surprised when I found my books there having out-traveled me in my longing aspiration to walk in the footprints of Jesus, in the land of His nativity, ministry and martyrdom.

When I reached old dark India, ten years ago, I was so surprised to find my commentaries there translated into the native language, and studied by the black, yellow, red and brown preachers of that far off land. Consequently I concluded that the pastors proclamation was perhaps not far from the facts in the case. I do all my writing through an amanuensis, by dictation. Consequently when I enunciate a book I preach to my largest audience, i.e. at the same time elated with the transporting anticipation, that I will enjoy the consolatory privilege of thus preaching to oncoming generations, after in His blessed providence, having received my golden harp.

Brother Godbey tell us how you have traveled so extensively as you have never had money. Twenty one years ago, I was giving a Bible reading, in the largest camp meeting in the world, Waco, Texas, founded through my humble instrumentality, and in its palmy days, before the launching of the 150 camps in that great empire of the southwest, having an encampment of four thousand, and an audience of twenty thousand. In the early morning about 500 were enjoying this Bible reading when a brother shouted from the audience, "Why do you not write the commentaries, we are afraid you will die and we will never get them?" I responded "as the land and the Book are so indissolubly associated, I must visit that country before I can expound the Scriptures. Then he answered, "Why do you not go now?" I responded, "I have not the money," and moved along with the lesson thinking no more about it. At the close the man came to me in costume cheap and plain, observing, Brother Godbey, "I have fifteen hundred dollars now lying in the bank, and the Lord tells me to send you to

the Holy Land, so you can have a check for it." This brother a noble holiness lay preacher, now lives in Orange, California and said to be worth an hundred thousand dollars. As I must always stop with him and spend a night or two as I travel around the Coast, I dread it because he begs me so hard to take my dear old wife who has walked by my side these 55 years and come to his house of "Many mansions" and take choice of rooms, from cellar to garret, and be at home till the trumpet blows, at the same time charging me to bring no money, as every bill is paid and will never need another penny. Of course I cannot do it, as I must preach till He cometh or sendeth an angel for me as in the case of Lazarus.

The secret of my extensive peregrinations so long a time is the simple fact that I have the pigeon wings and nothing to do but fly until the Lord tells me to light. They are for you, also as the "go" is in the commission as well as preach. Among these animals constituting Abraham's sacrifice, and that means yours and mine, as we are to walk in his footsteps. Rom. 4 ch. the faithful, joyful, obedient children of our heroic father in gospel grace, the ram is a luminous revelation of our perfect obedience, spending and being spent for God alone, without any reservation; as you see his meat is our best food, hygienical, legalistically cleansed and all right every way. This wool, our clothing to protect us from all the wintry storms, his hide to make our shoes, thus fortifying our feet against the rocks as we go out preaching his bones, we grind up to fertilize our lands and grow the crops out of which we and domestic animals subsist, and his great horns, the very thing to blow down all the Jerichos, the Devil can ever rear up to intercept our march to glory. Therefore as you analyze all of these animals identified with the sacrifice, oh, how beautiful and lucid the lesson of instruction, so pertinent to all the children of Abraham; N. B.

All the altars, on which we offer sacrifice unto the Lord, are to consist entirely of unhewn stones, just as God made them picked up here and there, scattered over the earth; as they were forbidden to strike it with a tool to make any change in its form. As the altar is really the nucleus of the church and all right under a green tree or the glittering stars; whereas the edifice built over it is simply a comfortable protection from inclement weather and an optionary, non-essential to the divine institution, the inseparable concomitant of God's church and the prominent symbol of Christ; as you see Heb. 13:10-15, "we have an altar, of which those officiating in the sanctuary have no right to eat; for the bodies of those animals whose blood is carried by the High Priest into the Holies, i.e. Holy of Holies, are utterly burnt up, without the Camp. Therefore Jesus, that He might sanctify His people by His own blood, suffered without the gate. Consequently let us go forth to him without the Camp, bearing His reproach confessing in His name; as we have no continuing city here but seek one which is to come. Through Him let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God incessantly, i.e. the fruit of our lips. Do not forget benefactions and fellowships, because with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

In this Scripture you see Christ is actually denominated the Altar, as everything is to be turned over to him; all we know and all we do not know, unreservedly and eternally responsively to his loving invitations, the vilest sinner this side the abyss, has nothing to do, but tip his hat to Satan, giving him back all his sins, actual, original, hereditary and absolutely all his meanness and bidding

him an eternal adieu; going out of business with him world without end; ringing out his mournful wail:

"Approach my soul the mercy seat,  
Where Jesus answers prayer,  
Then humbly fall before his feet,  
As none can perish there.

"Thy promise is my only plea,  
With this I venture nigh,  
Thou callest a burdened soul to Thee,  
And such, Oh, Lord, am I.

"Bowed down beneath a load of grief,  
By Satan sorely pressed,  
Fightings without and fears within,  
I come to thee for rest."

Jesus sweetly responding,

"Come humble sinner in whose breast,  
A thousand thoughts revolve;  
Come with your guilt and fears oppressed  
And make this last resolve.

I'll go to Jesus, though my sins  
Up like a mountain rose;  
I know his courts, I'll enter in,  
Whatever may oppose.

"Prostrate I'll lie before His throne,  
And then my guilt confess,  
A wretched sinner all undone,  
Without thy sovereign grace.

"I can but perish if I go,  
I am resolved to try,  
For if I stay away I know,  
I must forever die;

"Yet if I die with mercy sought,  
When I the King have tried,  
That were to die, delightful thought!  
As sinner never died."

Hence the altar mentioned about 400 times in the Bible is not only a grand prominent symbol of Christ but in the intensity and potency of the symbolism, actually Christ himself. As a rule they poured out the blood to God and ate the sacrifices; but in case of the whole burnt offering, they were not allowed to eat any of it, but the animal, hoof, hair and horns, utterly burnt up and that without the Camp of Israel, as Mt. Calvary is without the walls of Jerusalem; significantly confirmatory of the consolatory fact that he did not die simply for the church, but for all the world, as we have illustrated by his three Gentile mothers, Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth, showing up the fact that He is the consanquinity of the whole Gentile world, having actually redeemed all without a single exception by His precious blood.

Therefore all the infidels, debauchers, thieves murderers and desperadoes now in hell were actually redeemed by his blood, satisfying the law and simply went to hell because they contemptuously rejected that redemption; whose inextinguishable memory, through the flight of endless ages will prove the hottest and most blistering lash in the cat-o'-nine-tails, with which demons will flagellate them through the flight of eternal ages; eternally anathematizing them for their silly folly, letting Satan drag them into the pandemonium of unquenchable fire as a sheer gratuity; superinducing lugubrious wails, resounding through dismal dungeons of damnation, through the flight of eternal ages, "I die as the fool dieth," and never can blame any one but myself, as even the Devil had no power to damn my soul in a burning hell if I had only bidden him adieu, giving him back all my meanness, and taking the omnipotent Saviour for all I needed to restore my soul to an eternity of bliss and give me a place with the angels, archangels and redeemed spirits to swell the chorus of redeeming grace and dying love, while ages and cycles speed their precipitate flight.

In the history of our Republic 25 of our men were captured by the Turks, imprisoned, when they proposed to the government to throw wide the door for their redemption for \$2000.00 per capita. The first conclusion of congress was to send an army and rescue them. Fortunately one of their members was a godly Quaker who proceeded to reason the case with them assuring them that the war would cost the \$500,000, redemption price demanded 10 times over and besides kill many of our men, after long and importunate pleading, prevailed on them to send the money and redeem the prisoners; of whom 24 joyfully accepted their freedom, boarded the ship and returned home; while one of them to remain, observing that he liked the country. Despite all the remonstrances of his comrades warning him of his peril, he persisted, observing, "I'm in no danger, they will not kill me, because I am redeemed." Consequently the steamer sails away and leaves him, but is scarcely passed out of sight till he was a dead man.

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# THE ALTAR

By

William Baxter Godbey

## Chapter 2

### HOW DO WE GET IT

As we see in the above Scripture, Heb. 13:10, 15, Christ is our altar, and the High Priest carried the hot freshly shed blood of the sacrificial animal into the sanctorum and sprinkled it on the mercy seat between the cherubim; "So Christ suffered and died without the gate that He might sanctify the people with His blood;" thus having perfectly satisfied the violated law and redeemed every son and daughter of Adam's ruined race, throughout the whole world and the endless ages; eternally sweeping away, the vaguest apology for the damnation of a solitary soul; this wonderful vicarious, substitutionary atonement, triumphantly superinducing the possibility of universal salvation, so that even the "heathen are left without excuse as the invisible things of God, are made known by the visible, even His eternal power and divinity." (Rom. 1 ch.) The untutored savage in his primeval wilds, sees God in the clouds and hears Him in the winds. . .

The Holy Spirit who shines into every heart, with or without the written Word. (I John 1:7), "If we walk in the light as He is the light, we have fellowship one with the other, i.e. enjoy communion with God, and the blood cleanses us from all sin;" not without Christ, because the Holy Ghost who shineth on every person coming into the world (John 1:9). As the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Christ (Acts 16:6-7) and also the Spirit of the Father (Acts 5:1-9), and the only divine personality on the earth except the memorable three years of His incarnation, from the manger to the cross, and has shone on every human being ever in the world or ever will be; thus leaving no excuse for any human soul to make his bed in hell as He actually brings to every one the gracious possibility of salvation.

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God does not require us to walk in light we do not have. Even the heathen have the light of nature, their own consciences and best of all that of the Holy Spirit "who shines on every one coming into the world." Then why must we preach the gospel to all the heathen? Not because they cannot be saved without our instrumentality; but because it is the great commandment. Matt. 28:19, "Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them," and if we do not obey, we fall under condemnation and lose our own souls.

Therefore it should be the great work of our lives to evangelize the heathen; for this glorious work I have spent my life, preaching these sixty-two years, while circumnavigating the globe, and have willed to the missionaries in the foreign fields all I will leave when He calls me hence, consisting of books of my own authorship, expounding the Bible, i.e. preaching the gospel, telling the people how to be saved. The selling price which at present is 15 thousand dollars, to be sold by the evangelists in the land, and the money to be turned over to the evangelization of the "regions beyond." If Christendom only had the light, the wealth of the nations would be focalized in the evangelization of the globe with all possible expedition.

Reader have you put all on the altar; all you know and all you do not know, these two bundles, absolutely including everything; the latter by far the larger of the two; yet just as easily consecrated, as the former, which with many of us is a very small matter, as God's people are forbidden to lay up treasures on earth and are commanded to lay up in heaven. We are pilgrims on the earth, traveling to a mansion in the skies, singing as we go,

"No foot of land do I possess,  
No cottage in the wilderness,  
A poor wayfaring man, I wander to and fro,  
And camp a while in tents below,  
Till I my heaven gain."

As Christ is "the altar" and it "sanctifies the gift" Matt. 2:19, N. B. you are the gift; consequently the conclusion follows irresistibly as a logical sequence, that it sanctifies you. But how shall I know! You see when Abraham, the father of all the faithful people getting sanctified and making their way to heaven, had made his consecration in the morning, no fire fell on it, demonstrating its acceptance of God. Yet he stood by heroically till the exellations superinduced by the burning semitropical sun, magnetized the olfactories of the vultures, hawks and ravens in the surrounding mountains, so they swept down, eclipsing the sun with their black pinions, determined to satisfy their voracious appetites, devouring the banquet of delicious fresh meat, when he courageously flogged them away with his clubs, protecting his sacrifice and no telling how many of their necks he broke. In this notable transaction the vultures symbolize doubts, which Satan will turn on you in clouds black as midnight, so dark that you see not a ray of light save that which is caught from the lurid lightning of terrific Sinai, which He will exhibit before your panic stricken gaze in appalling panorama. You must here walk in the steps of father Abraham and take the clubs of the infallible promise and go for all the buzzards, hawks, and eagles, coming to enjoy a royal banquet at the expense of your damnation. Abraham was a physical giant; see him heroically protecting his sacrifice when this army, swept down on him from the gloomy mount of dubitation.

You dare not take a doubt at any cost whatever, I Cor. 8 ch., "He that doubteth is damned." Thus heroically chasing away all the buzzards, he achieves the victory over doubt, but still the fire lingers in the skies. "The sun goes down and a horror of great darkness envelops the Plains of Mamre and surrounding mountains; when the roar of the lion, lingers with the scream of the jackals, the growl of the bear and the shriek of the panther, magnetized by the seductive aroma, exhaled from the fresh meat and come voracious to satisfy their carnivorous fancies, with the royal banquet.

Father Abraham by this time has supplied himself with the valuable ammunition of the head rocks which abound in that locality, which the Lord has permitted me to visit in my four tours through the Holy Land. Single handed and alone he meets the roaring monsters in a hand to paw combat, proves too much for them. Those ponderous rocks breaking their heads, smashing in their ribs, soon put them to route, in precipitate skedaddlement, meanwhile the father of the faithful finds himself monarch of all he surveys, his rights none to dispute, from the center all around to the sea, lord of the fowl and the brute; yet the fire has not fallen to consume his sacrifice.

He is alone in the darkness, "yet strong in faith, knowing that God is able to perform that which He has promised." Rom. 6 ch. Despite the darkness he believes God, "That the altar sanctifies the gift". Behold, the fire falls, like a flaming lamp, and gloriously witnesses to the acceptance of his sacrifice.

Dr. Clark says that he had a similar experience while seeking sanctification, the sun going down and leaving him wrapt in midnight, without a solitary ray. John Wesley says, God in mercy thus frequently for a time withholds the witness, testing our faith, in order to invigorate it, as the soldier fights no battles who fights no battles, will never wear the victor's reed.

Day before yesterday on this camp ground (Mt. of Blessings, Cincinnati, Ohio) an elderly man asked me to tell him how to get sanctified. Of course I proceeded at once, exhorting him to put all on the altar, the known and the unknown, no reserves whatever, assuring him that the Holy Spirit is now ready to give all needed help to make this utter and eternal abandonment, which puts us on believing ground where we have nothing to do, but believe God's infallible Word; meanwhile the blessed Spirit is always on hand to inspire a faith pertinent to the reception of the blessing we seek. At that point, he said, "Shall I believe it is done?" I respond, "No, it is a trick of the enemy to get you to believe what is not true, in order to defeat you." Then he said, "I am to believe that He will do it," To this I answered in the negative, "As will is in the future tense, not faith at all, which is always in the present tense, but hope which will never get it." As faith is the only receptive grace.

We find it in the catalogue of the nine graces Gal. 5:22 "Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith meekness, and temperance," (i.e. self-control,) perfect obedience, doing God's will on earth as the angels in heaven, while we are saved by these nine graces, He imparts to us the nine gifts which constitute our panoply by which we fight and conquer the enemy, rescue the perishing and instrumentally save others, wisdom, knowledge, faith, bodily healing, gospel miracles, prophesying, i.e. preaching discernment of spirits, enabling us to know whether the auditor needs the Sinai gospel of conversion, the Pentecost gospel of sanctification or the Transfiguration gospel of translation, tongues, i.e. languages and the interpretation of tongues, I Cor. 12:8-11.

Hence you see that faith is a member of the nine graces by which we are saved and the nine gifts by which we save others, and consequently the great basil enducements of the divine economy alone among her eight sisters in both catalogues, in her very nature, receptive and appropriate.

I showed him that to believe it is done when it is not and to believe He will [do the work in the future] is the strategy of Satan, to cheat him out of the blessing, as reception is only by faith and its very nature in the present tense. Then he says, "Am I to believe that He does sanctify me when I have no internal evidence of it?" I respond in the affirmative. "You are not to believe it because you feel it, as you never can feel it till you get it and can only get it through faith, and consequently looking after feeling is a trick of the Devil to cheat you out of it." There are three F's in salvation whether appertaining to soul or body, for the justification and sanctification of the former, and the healing the latter, the first, Faith, then the Fact, and last of all the Feeling; whereas the fond device of Satan is to turn them around, putting Feeling first, then the Fact and last of all, [Faith] he will let you believe it; thus effectually and eternally defeating you, as 'tis impossible to feel it till you get it, and you can only receive it by faith.

Therefore in this utter and eternal abandonment to God, despite the realization and the painful consciousness, that you are full of inbred sin from top to toe, evil nature, envy, jealousy, prejudice, bigotry, vanity, egotism, selfishness, self-love self-conceit, ambition, avarice, pride, animosity, lust, fashion temper retaliation, idolatry, and many phases of the depravity the common lot of every human being, transmitted to us by Satan through fallen Adam, our federal head, the Old Man. Rom. 6:6 "The body of sin which must be crucified and buried into the atonement, i.e. the death of Christ, v. 5, and left there forever, or he will prove Satan's millstone around your neck, dragging you down to hell to sink through eternal ages as it has not bottom.

Therefore in your utter abandonment to God for this world and all others, you are to believe God's word, "The altar sanctifies the gift, the God of Peace sanctifies you wholly I Thess. 5:23. "If we walk in the light, the blood, cleanses from all sin," I John 1:7. Walking in the light is just saying Yes to God and no to the Devil all the time and ready when He gives you still brighter light to walk in every ray, doing his will on earth as the angels in heaven; the blessed Holy Spirit constantly on hand to give you all the help you need. As God says, "As your faith is, so be it unto you." He is certain to do it according to your faith, in due time witnessing to you, the bells of heaven ringing from the crown of your feet, "sanctified wholly."

As it was recess, quite a bunch gathered around us, and a woman, joyously and triumphantly listening to our conversation, entered Beulah Land with tremendous shouts of victory; while the brother to whom I was speaking, responsively to his request to tell him how to get it still lingered in the howling wilderness. As grace is perfectly free, the sinner has nothing to do, but to repent of all his sins, i.e. leave them forever in Satan's Kingdom, where he got them and taking God at His Word believe that He grants him a free pardon for the sake of Christ alone, refusing to doubt His word, will soon find himself born from above and shouting the victory. Thus Satan having adroitly somersaulted those three ebbs in the plan of salvation; putting Feeling first, then the Fact and last of all the Faith, triumphantly sweeps the agonizing seeker from the field filling hell with shouts of victory; as you cannot feel it till you get it, and have to believe in order to get it, as faith is the only receptive grace.

Therefore when you are fully and unreservedly abandoned to God, as a penitent sinner, you have nothing to do but fully believe that He freely forgives you for Jesus' sake and shout the victory. If a Christian seeking sanctification; having reached that utter abandonment, which is perfectly feasible in case of every soul, because of the omnipotent Holy Spirit is always on hand to give you all the help you need, not only to reach the perfect submission but to inspire the receptive and appropriative faith, leaving you nothing to do, but shout and obey; true to God under all circumstances at every cost.

The Holy Spirit can never witness to you that the work is done, till He has actually done it, which He can only do, responsively to your faith, which you can never exercise, till you reach believing ground, which is utter and eternal abandonment to God for this world and all others, when it becomes easy and even spontaneous, i.e. doing its own believing, so like my little granddaughter when seeking sanctification, having made up her mind that when she got it she would never shout, but when it came, shouted all over the house, oblivious of her resolution to keep quiet. God is never

delinquent, the fault is in you, not utterly abandoned and indubitably believing that He doeth it. Abide in the attitude of perfect submission and doubtless faith it will surely come.