

- No missing the altar – biggest piece of tabernacle furniture, immediately inside entrance
- All items are pictures to teach us, and pointers to direct us to Christ.

1. A Picture of Necessary sacrifice

- The altar teaches us about God's solution – Penal substitutionary atonement!
 - a) A Place of Judgment**
 - Sin is treason. The penalty is death (Gen 2:17, Rom 6:23).
 - Altar was a grim blood-splattered place of death.
 - A place of constant burning (Lev 6:12)
 - b) A Place of Substitution**
 - A flawless animal in place of flawed human
 - The guilty come with a *divine authorised substitute*
 - God teaching the people that he would allow & provide another to take their place
 - c) A Place of Reconciliation (At-one-ment)**
 - Burnt offering often followed by fellowship offering—a meal between God, priests and people All righteous hostility was gone, the was price paid.
 - God and the sinner were reconciled

2. A Pointer to a Better sacrifice

- Every aspect of tabernacle is deliberately insufficient to make us wish for better.
- Repetition = Insufficient “*Day after day* every priest stands and performs his religious duties; *again and again he offers the same sacrifices*, which can never take away sins.” (Heb 10:11)
- We need a substitute who is like us, but perfect, and of infinite value. God himself is the substitute. “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world”
- “He did not enter by means of the blood of goats & calves; but ... *by his own blood.*” Heb 9:12. Everything about the altar points to Christ
 - a) Christ the Judgment bearer**
 - On the Cross Christ was in the place of Judgment. There he experienced the fire of God's wrath (Hell). He paid the penalty that our sins deserved.
 - b) Christ the Substitute**
 - Where can you find someone who will go to Hell for you? God the Son offers.
 - He is the flawless one, appointed and authorised to take the place of anyone who takes hold of him.
 - c) Christ the Reconciliation**
 - “For Christ died *for sins* once for all, *the righteous for the unrighteous*, to *bring you to God.*” 1 Peter 3:18
 - Two columns of smoke—one representing the guilty sinner, one the Holy God—come together at Calvary and the Holy One becomes the Guilty One,

Notices

Sunday	Evening meeting at Milford	8pm
Tuesday	Bible Study - Proverbs <i>Art of Living</i> Study 4 @ Mark & Judith's	8pm
Wednesday	Morning Bible Study - DVD at Judith Tait's	10.15

Spring Conference

3-5th Feb Topic: Mission in the Footsteps of Jesus. Speaker: Rev John Nicholls, Chief Executive, London City Mission. Venue: Glenada Christian Conference Centre, Newcastle. *Application forms available*

Castlewellan Holiday Conference

Forms available for this summer holiday conference - must be in by Saturday 15th February

Sermon Continued

- so that we could be reconciled to God. see 2 Cor 5:18-21
- Because of the infinite value of his sacrifice, that reconciliation is infinite (eternal, forever). Hebrews 9:12.
 - “How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?” Hebrews 2:3

The Bronze Altar

The bronze altar for burnt offerings (Ex. 27:1-8; 38:1-7) stood in the outer courtyard with its poles removed. It was a hollow wooden box, overlaid with bronze, measuring 4.5 feet high and 7.5 feet long and wide (1.4 m x 2.3 m x 2.3 m). There was a bronze grating on the top and on the sides of the altar.

