

**Keep the Temple Pure**

Shalom,

The Lord is intent on keeping His chosen ones from being infected by the world, and in these two Torah portions found in **Leviticus 12:1—15:33**, instructions are given to teach us to **maintain separation** from that which is *tamei*, or **ritually impure**. This condition, also called, *uncleanness*, has to do with **coming into contact with the realm of death**. While it is not always possible to avoid contact, God provides ample provision for being **restored** to that which is *tahor*, or **ritual purity**. When we think of that which has to do with the term, *ritual*, we often think only of repetitive religious observance, but actually, we should think first of that which is **“in order,”** and **that which is specified by God for us to enter into His awesome presence**. As we read scripture, portion after portion, chapter after chapter, we can easily lose track of the context and continuity of the Word of God. These portions we are considering this week **give much information on maintaining our purity in the midst of a fallen world**, but they also show **how much the Father loves us and wants to protect us from all uncleanness, and the pain brought on by failing to receive His instruction**.

*Leviticus 15:31 Thus shall ye separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile My tabernacle that is among them.*

If you will recall the incident related in Leviticus chapter 10, you will see how Nadav and Avihu, the sons of Aaron, in an act of unauthorized worship, offering **“strange fire”** before YHWH, were consumed by the unimaginable power and presence of the Creator of the Universe. Many who read this account seem to think that the death of these two priests was punishment from God, but I am convinced that it had to do with **the attitude and manner that led them to stray from the uncompromised Word of God**, which is **the way of Life**. It was not the act of a wrathful God that brought about their death, but rather casualness of heart that led them to treat His mighty power in a careless manner. To illustrate, electricity, if properly respected and carefully utilized, is a great source of power and capable of bringing light, heat and other forms of physical energy to mankind, but if treated carelessly, it can cause immeasurable destruction, though it intends no harm. In like manner, God Who is ultimately good never purposes to harm His own, which is why He showed us how to remain safe in His presence by teaching us His ways.

Remember we are talking about **cleanness** and **uncleanness**, or **light** and **darkness**, or **life** and **death**. Following the death of Nadav and Avihu, in the Torah portions we are considering, God gave quick and remedial instructions to protect His children from dying in their uncleanness. **God desires to be in the midst of His people**, and to pour out blessing upon all who love Him, and He often reminds us that **His Way is the only Way, Truth and Life. Just as Yeshua, the Living Word is the only way to God, the written Word is His revelation to us, and there is no alternate, nor mingled way to approach Him**.

*Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set*

*before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*

*Deuteronomy 30:20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him: for He is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.*

The sacrifice of Yeshua, and His shed blood to remit our sins has opened the door to abundant life never known or understood in times past, for the very presence of the Ruach HaKodesh, the Holy Spirit, now dwells in our born again spirits, **and we are a transformed people, the temple of the Living God.** The plan of the Father is now being revealed to all who will choose life and allow Him to reveal Himself in, and through us, and just as **He required a ritually pure earthly Tabernacle,** He now is instructing us, through the agency of His eternal Word, to **maintain a life purified by the blood of Yeshua, and empowered by His Holy Spirit to be His Dwelling Place here on this earth, and forever.** Let's choose to live and walk in purity, set apart to the call of God, separating ourselves from every defiling attitude and action.

There is a great danger for those who treat the power and presence of God in a **casual manner,** winking at sin and perversion and becoming calloused in their hearts.

*Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

*Isaiah 5:21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*

You might be inclined to think that, as believers in Yeshua, saved by the grace of God, we need not concern ourselves with ritual purity, or with maintaining our Tabernacle in the manner prescribed by the Lord. It is true that the blood of Yeshua has cleansed us from all sin. There is salvation in His name only, but let us also recognize that willful disregard for His teaching and instruction is missing the mark, and remember that the manifested presence of God has never changed. We are reminded of the awesome power and glory of YHWH as we read the following verses:

*Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:*

*Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.*

*1 Corinthians 11:26 NIV For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

*1 Corinthians 11:27 Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.*

*1 Corinthians 11:28 A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*

*1 Corinthians 11:29 For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the*

*Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

*1 Corinthians 11:30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.*

*1 Corinthians 11:31 **But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.***

I have not written this to you to cause fear, nor condemnation, but rather to remind you of the great love that our Father has for us, and His desire to protect us from harm. His Word is His instruction to us. He is teaching His ministers to walk in His glory free from the sin and corruption that surrounds us, completely equipped by His grace to fulfill the Word of God.

*Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, **boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,***

*Hebrews 10:20 By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh;*

*Hebrews 10:21 And having an high priest over the house of God;*

*Hebrews 10:22 **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.***

*Hebrews 10:23 **Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;** (for He is faithful that promised;)*

*Hebrews 10:24 And let us **consider one another** to provoke unto love and to good works:*

*Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,** and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

*Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**Join us to learn the Authority of the Believer each Thursday evening at 6:30pm in Granby.**

Loving Him,  
Terry