

Principles Pictured by the Tabernacle, The Vail

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Preacher: Pastor Wolski

[0 : 00] Now you're back on board with where we've been. We've been studying the instructions that God gave to Moses in the mount regarding that building. This is a place in Exodus 25, verse 8, that he said, Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them.

And so that's the building. Now, I want you to find chapter 26 this morning. In Exodus chapter 26, we're studying these particulars of what you just witnessed there on the screen and noticing not just what they built, but rather how that relates to the New Testament church because the church is called the temple of God and that he dwells among his people.

And specifically, we're dealing with Bible Baptist church more than anything else. And it feels that we're in some ways laying somewhat of foundational work and some thoughts that ought to be real and true.

And if the foundation's been laid for years and years, that's great. But sometimes new faces, new minds need to be brought into that foundation and understand what the local church is and what it's not.

And so some things we realized from this, the tashes was the importance of togetherness. We realized from the covering, the importance of a covering or authority, and as we studied that from 1 Corinthians, an order.

[1 : 24] We also saw specific roles within the church of men and women, some standing and standing firm and strong, others helping and bracing and supporting. And last week, we saw by those silver sockets how they illustrate the importance of a foundation.

And for each board, there were two sockets. And the New Testament shows two foundations for the New Testament church, that being the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the word of God.

And it's those two things. There's nothing else necessary to build a church upon. And if you get something added to that, then you're probably getting off track. And it's not to say you can't have other things present within a local church, but it can't be what you build the church upon, or it will not, it'll fail, it'll get weak, it'll fall.

Those are the two things. So today, we're going to finish the chapter. Some of these words you just heard that voice read. Now you're going to hear my voice read it. Verse number 31 is where we want to begin and then finish off the chapter with this study.

And the final element to the instructions of the building is regarding that of two distinct veils or hangings. So verse 31 says, And thou shalt make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet and fine twined linen of cunning work.

[2 : 38] With cherubims shall it be made. And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be of gold upon the four sockets of silver. And thou shalt hang up the veil under the tashes that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony.

And the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy. And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place. And thou shalt set the table without the veil and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south.

And thou shalt put the table on the north side. And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent of blue and purple and scarlet and fine twined linen wrought with needlework.

And thou shalt make for the hanging five pillars of shittim wood and overlay them with gold and their hooks shall be of gold. And thou shalt cast five sockets of brass for them. Let's pray.

And then let's get into the Bible. Father, it's our prayer before you that you would guide us into all truth this morning. May the word of God and the tabernacle that you had your people build in the wilderness and take down and erect and tear down and back and forth all those years.

[3 : 50] May this have some relevance to us in the lives that we live here today. Please help us to understand some truth from this book. It's a holy, holy book. It's alive and we believe it.

And so may we understand its application to us. This morning we ask in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. Now we're talking about the hangings, the curtains. You just saw a little picture of what they are. They are approximately 15 feet wide by 15 feet tall. One solid curtain. One solid work. No doubt heavy. Both of these made of the same materials.

The only difference, as noted in verse 31, was that the inner veil had cherubims made on it. Just like that underneath layer of the curtains above that you could see inside.

The walls would go up, but then across the top you'd see that same color of layer with the cherubim. And the fine needlework there and the fine twine linen and the blue and purple and scarlet.

[4 : 46] And so that inner one had cherubims. The outer one did not. The outer one covered the entrance into the sanctuary. The inner one covered or concealed the entrance into the inner most holy sanctuary, where, as we read, was placed the ark, the mercy seat, where the presence of God dwelt between the cherubims.

Now, upon meditating and just considering these two veils, I sensed and found a bit of irony that emerges from their placement.

And it's kind of, maybe I'd call it a paradox, is present. Not only did these two pieces act as a barrier to keep someone out, they closed off a section, but they also offered accessibility.

The remainder of the tabernacle had tall, strong, firmly planted boards. And yet, the veils then offered entrance.

In one sense, they prevented entrance, and then at the same time, they permitted entrance into the sanctuary, thus the paradox, if you don't mind me calling it that. We've been studying this tabernacle.

[5 : 57] We're considering how does this relate? How do these details apply to this local church? I find that this paradox is just as present here today, and I believe it's a crucial one that we understand.

Because Bible Baptist Church has to maintain a separation. It has to maintain a protective shield.

There's some things that don't belong in here amongst us, and that ought to be present.

Yet at the same time, Bible Baptist Church must remain accessible. It's as if exclusion and inclusion are working together, simultaneously acting in harmony, and therein is the paradox.

It feels contradictory to say it that way, but I feel that there's some practical truth that we can get out of this. And so I want to just talk about those two thoughts, the one being the importance of exclusion, and then the importance of inclusion.

And so let's think about this a little bit from these veils. The veil, both of them, forbade entrance into either the holy sanctuary or into the innermost holiest of all, the place reserved for God alone.

[7 : 09] It was an extremely important item to this tabernacle. It forbade entrance. It says that if you're not a consecrated priest, if you don't have the holy oil upon you, you don't come in here.

What happens if you take it upon yourself to come in here? The fire of God will come out on you, and you'll drop dead. And God's very serious about that. Let me show you an instance of this.

Flip over to Leviticus, the next book to your right. Look at Leviticus chapter number 10. For a priest to come before and to enter into that veil, the first veil even, there were certain orders that he had to obey and follow for his sanctification, certain orders even in regards to his apparel.

And God was very serious about this. The holiness of God was present inside of this sanctuary.

And if anything enters into that veil that is not in accord to his word and to his instructions, he's not going to play games with you.

He's not going to say, hold on, remember what I said? No, it's just, you're taking your life in your own hands if you're going to ignore the word of God. And down you go. And in chapter 10, notice verse 1, Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not.

[8 : 37] And there went out fire from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. Moses said unto Aaron, This is that that the Lord spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified.

And Aaron held his peace. And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, sons of Uzziah, the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the

camp.

So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp, as Moses had said. And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eliezer, and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes, lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people.

But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord hath kindled. And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die. Why is that? For the anointing oil of the Lord's upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses. And there's many times throughout this book, and these instructions to that, to those Levites, and to the priesthood, of the do's and don'ts, of ministering in their office as a priest, within the sanctuary, and the tabernacle, and all of the offerings.

[9 : 51] It had to be according to God's order. And God's not playing games. He'll kill them dead on the spot if they think they can just take something for granted, or ignore something. And so it's something to be understood how serious this is.

And so the veil was hung up to keep them out. To keep the people out, the tabernacle was not a place that you take the kids on a rainy day to play. It's not a place for the old people to get entertained and play bingo.

It's not a place where they store up all their food to feed the hungry communities around them. This was a holy place, reserved for the presence of God, something that only those sanctified priests could enter into, and minister before the Lord, as it says many times.

It's completely off limits to everybody except those sanctified priests. Huh. Let's just see what the Bible says about that.

Look at 1 Peter chapter 1. Now I'm going to take you on a little Bible study. 1 Peter chapter 1. Only those sanctified priests could come in.

[11 : 02] 1 Peter chapter 1. And I want to start, I'm going to just pick off a few spots here, starting in verse 18 and 19.

1 Peter 1 and verse 18. The Bible reads, For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Let me ask you a question. Is that you? Were you redeemed with the precious blood of Christ? Let's see. Let's keep going. Look at verse 23 through 25.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever, for all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.

The grass withereth, the flower thereof falleth away, but the word of the Lord endureth forever, and this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

[12 : 20] My question is, verse 23, being born again. Is that you? Have you been born again? Have you been redeemed with the precious blood of Christ? Look at chapter 2.

If that's you, verse 5, 2, 5, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house and holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Look a little bit later in this chapter and look at verse number 9. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God, which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Is that you? If that's you, if you've been redeemed by the blood of Christ, if you've been born again by the gospel that is preached unto you, the word of God, you are a member of a holy priesthood. And according to this Bible, you can come nigh and you can offer up spiritual sacrifices by Jesus Christ. You can't eliminate those three words or you're dead in your tracks.

[14 : 02] By Jesus Christ. You can enter within the veil. Look at 1 Corinthians chapter 9. Back to your left, 1 Corinthians chapter 9.

And while you're turning, I'm going to read a verse from Revelation chapter 1. You're finding 1 Corinthians 6. I'm sorry.

1 Corinthians 6. Revelation 1 verse 5 says, And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth, unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God.

He's made us priests unto God and his Father to whom he glory. So I don't need a priest to stand in between God and I. I have this priesthood that I entered into being born again and redeemed.

1 Corinthians chapter 6. And you know verse 19. Remember, we've read this a few times here recently. Verse 19.

[15:12] Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God? You're not your own for you're bought with a price. And so the body is the temple.

But let me back up and see something in the context here that has to do with how this is even possible. And verse number 9. I'll start in verse 9.

9 through 11. Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdom of God.

And such were some of you. But, get this, lock this down. Ye are, present tense, washed. But ye are sanctified.

But ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. only those born-again believers, redeemed and washed and cleansed and sanctified and justified by the blood of Jesus Christ, by the Spirit of our God, are approved, are granted access to draw nigh unto God.

[16:37] Is that you? Do you have that access? I want to do a quick comparison here. Find the book of Ephesians. A little bit to your right.

The book of Ephesians. I'm not going to read the text about the priests in the Old Testament from the book of Leviticus. You can look these up on your own, but I'm just going to make the comparison from Ephesians, chapter 1, verse number 7.

First of all, the Old Testament priests had to offer a sacrifice. first for himself, for his own personal sins before he ever entered in. The blood had to be applied and sprinkled upon the altar.

Then he could go to minister before the Lord. He could gain entrance when the blood was shed and applied. In Ephesians, chapter 1, in verse 7, or I'll start in verse 6, to the praise of the glory of his grace wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace.

Whereas the priests had to offer the blood of bulls and goats, we have redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ. We have forgiveness of sins and are accepted.

[17:59] We could go in. The Old Testament priests had to be anointed with the holy oil. In Ephesians, chapter 1, in verse 13, we're sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.

The Holy Spirit is on us and in us and in our temple, our body. We can't lose him. We're sealed until a future day. That's a working of God.

The Old Testament priest had the oil and while it was on him, he had to be inside and it was part of this whole holy setup. We have that through the Holy Spirit. Look at Ephesians, chapter 4.

The Old Testament priest, he had to put on robes and I won't describe them but remember him saying, don't let your head be uncovered. They had from their head down to their feet.

They had special holy garments to wear. In Ephesians, chapter 4 and look at verse number 24. And that ye put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

[19:07] The Old Testament priest put on holy garments. You as a believer in Jesus Christ washed in the blood, born again, have a new man, the Holy Ghost dwelling inside of you and you're to put on that new man and earlier in the passage put off the old man in verse 22.

The Old Testament priest washed himself with water before he entered through that veil. Look at Ephesians chapter 5 and verse 25 through 27.

Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it that he might sanctify that word keeps showing up and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word that he might present it unto himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing but that it should be holy and without blemish.

So that Old Testament priest look back at chapter 2 while you're in Ephesians he had to wash in the lava before he could go inside. He had to have the blood applied.

He had to have on the oil and have on the robes and all of this is in Jesus Christ for the believer. In chapter 2 and verse 13 but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ and the most important verse on this verse 18 for through him we both have access access through the veil into the sanctuary to offer up spiritual sacrifices to the Father.

[20:47] We both have access by one spirit unto the Father. The Old Testament priest showed a picture in all of the workings and typology of what we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We're not done yet I'll take you one more place on this study look at Hebrews chapter 10 and this will be the last verse on this part Hebrews chapter 10 and I'll start in verses 10 through 12 to begin here Hebrews 10 verse 19 having therefore brethren boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus by a new and living way which he hath consecrated for us through the veil that is to say his flesh and on we go we can in verse 22 draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

Believers have access all others must stay out the veil separates the veil excludes and I want to make a side note here before we go on is that when the priest entered through that veil they entered through with a purpose in mind they had a ministry to perform to before the Lord that's a phrase that shows up all over that thing in this sanctuary before the Lord they weren't coming in there to hang out in the cool area because it was sunny outside they weren't coming in there to check things out because they were bored they were coming in through the veil to engage in an activity it reminds us that the function of Bible Baptist Church is not to entertain people to come here to be entertained to sit and look and say that's nice but it's to engage in an activity before the Lord to show up with a heart open to God to worship

Him to have your heart and mind focused upon the Lord Jesus Christ it's not a place where you come to see your friends you can enjoy fellowship God help you to enjoy as much as you can and take it all in but the focus is to minister to the Lord the goal here is not to draw a crowd not to draw spectators people that enter into churches today it's so prevalent it's so backwards they come in the doors and say so what's in here for me so what are you going to do to keep my attention my answer is nothing I'm not going to try very hard I'm going to bring forth the word of God if that doesn't get you excited then you're going to have to look somewhere else people show up in church and say where's the people that I can have fun with where's my crowd at where's my click where's my people my age so we can go do stuff after church that is the absolute wrong motive to come in the doors your heart should be on the Lord

Jesus Christ your heart should be fixed on Christ with your ears open to hear the word of God if you are in tune spiritually speaking with those two foundations of this church you will find fellowship here you'll find you'll hear somebody give a testimony you won't even know who they are you won't know anything about them or you won't have anything in common except after the service you'll be like hey that was a good testimony that blessed my heart it was good to hear what God did for you in your life and you can strike up a conversation based on that on the gospel of Jesus Christ on praying for their lost family members on praying for somebody in their family to the Lord to work in their life just things that are spiritual of nature when you come into this place it's a purpose behind it so the veil hung and it forbade the entrance of anybody else unless you're sanctified unless the blood's applied unless you're coming in to engage in ministering before the

[25 : 30] Lord but remember the paradox remember that the entrance was both prohibitive and yet it also was permissive these hanging walls were permissive and they show the importance of inclusion or maybe a better word is accessibility the tabernacle wasn't constructed like a fortified barricade three quarters or better of it was the north the west the south those walls were 15 feet tall they were supported with bars they were set up strong you weren't going under it you weren't going over it the only way in was through the veil it was quite easy to pass in and out of that veil though there were no dead bolts no locks no security system no eyes retina scan face recognition no thumb prints nothing just a veil a movable soft veil it shows accessibility pretty simple to push it aside and pass on by and enter in if you're that priest and it's my opinion and I'll say it this way that's the kind of effort it should take to come into this place no passwords no bouncers at the door no people checking you out to see if you check the list and then you can come in

I don't want anybody that walks in here to fear that they won't be accepted or received if somebody's coming in here with the motivation of searching for truth and seeking a relationship with God God help us to receive them and facilitate that because the Lord's doing some work but sometimes they don't look like they're in their Sunday best sometimes they don't look like they're one of us sometimes they have the markings of a worldly lifestyle and it can be very easy to turn away it can be very easy to say who is that and what are they doing here and I don't know who they are but the word of God can clean them up the same way it did for most of us the word of God can do work in them if we'll give it a chance if somebody wants to disrupt our services then we employ the bouncers by all means we get them out of here nothing should come in here that's going to take the focus and attention off the

Lord Jesus Christ but that outlook of keeping them out and bouncing them out of here that's reserved for the rare and the extreme situations the balance is that although we must remain guarded in our membership and protective of our sound doctrine and protective and guarded of spiritual worship where we worship God in spirit and in truth from the word of God we also have to remain accessible everybody's welcome to attend we want to make the gospel known we want sinners to come and to hear and to believe and to be saved for all of eternity to taste of the goodness of God you and I we need to have a desire for them to come and to hear and to grow and to see their life changed maybe it's in a small way maybe it's in a slow way but nevertheless to allow God to work on them and to grow them in faith yesterday some of us men stood on a street corner there and a couple cars piled up in front of me and I looked over my shoulder and there were some windows down and I noticed that there was about 12 seconds left on the timer before the light switched and I said

I just the verse came to mind it was probably because I saw it across the way it said Christ Jesus and I hollered out to him that the Bible says Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners and then before the light turned I asked the question are you a saved sinner or are you a sinner on the way to hell and boom the light changed they're gone but it made me it just contemplates that in my mind that everybody that comes in this door is a sinner as much as we need to be sanctified separate holy priests the truth is at our base we're vanity we're altogether vanity every last one of us and when somebody walks through that door that doesn't look like we look doesn't have the tie and the three piece suit on that I have today we can't turn our heads from them I want to remind you of something that's just being on our little family reunion got a few more details about the conversion of my mom and dad and my dad gave his testimony here and he told that the first time that he stepped into a church a Christian church that preached the bible and presented the gospel the first time he went to the catholic church but the first time he went to a church that preached the truth he said

I walked in there looking like a hippie I was newly saved because a friend witnessed to me and gave me a book and that book laid out the gospel of Jesus Christ and I believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and I took it and he said I was saved but I knew hardly a thing and I walked into that Christian church with hair down to my shoulders facial hair bell bottom pants just looked like a worldly hippie and he said I walked into there and listened to them start to sing my mom said the same thing she was after he was saved she visited a lost Catholic girl and she wasn't sure about all these Christian born again people and she said they sang I never heard anybody sing with joy with a light on their face she said it was real and she said I felt it I could tell something was different than the church that I grew up in but that man that young man with his long hair and his worldly appearance he was saved he was seeking the

[31 : 52] Lord but he sure didn't look like much of anything he looked like just some punk kid that spends most of his life partying with his friends because that was true but he came into that church and he was received!

And he became zealous for the Lord and he began to witness to everybody he met and through him and through a few core others they began to grow that fellowship of it was Friday night Bible study they grew that into a hundred some people and the Lord took a group of them and led them to take another step in faith to go to Bible school by now the hair is cleaned up the faces changed the Bible in him the gospel in him and he goes to Bible school to lost cold hard Polish Roman Catholics preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and the point I think to make here is that what he looked like the first time he walked in the doors of the church many Baptists would have fallen off their pews if he would walk in here today the way he looked then because they don't see what God sees they don't see the potential of a life that can be grown and turned over to the

Lord and they say out stay out but no church we need to see through faith come in if you want the truth come and get it let me befriend you let me get your number let me encourage you to come on Wednesday let me help you show you let me answer your Bible questions let me direct you to a walk with God God brings some people through these doors I want it to be easy for them to attend Bible Baptist Church I want them to find a warm welcome to feel like they're wanted to feel like they're cared for in this place to feel like somebody actually wants to know their name and talk to them about spiritual things I I don't know what the potential is the Lord sees but whenever a new person walks in it strikes me I didn't bring them in here most likely nobody in this church brought them in here there's many times somebody comes in and

I think the Lord brought them in here today the Lord did that it's our job to facilitate that growth to seeing what God sees become a reality it's not just my job but I see it and I think I want to get their name I want to get to meet them I want to try to get them back I want to see them grow the Lord brought them in it's not just my job church this is the point of the message!

now it's not just my that's yours to be a welcoming church to this church to have accessibility God forbid that we ever get content to be a church of people that we know just a group of friends that stop seeking to bring sinners in here to Jesus Christ and just get content with the way things are rather than seeing somebody partake and get a drink for the first time on the fountain of life may God give us a real may God give every one of us a divine desire to see lost sinners saved and to see the Lord be able to do a work in their heart in this place right here we've got the goods we've got the goods folks we've got the book we've got the truth we're not confused about how to get to heaven we're not confused about what works and what doesn't work so let's not shun somebody that the

[36 : 05] Lord brings in these doors may the young Christians learn to grow may we be able to witness their lives being changed by the word of God may we be able to 20 years later look back and say oh I remember when they were this but look what God made them now he made this tabernacle with veils entrance and veils that would permit entrance we have a responsibility to guard to protect the truth to remain fervent in our stand and to contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints but at the same time we have a duty to have the doors open and to have open hearts and open minds to the work that God wants to do in someone else's life they may not look like you and I they may need to grow they may not have gone to church they may not know the word of God they may not have a

King James Bible but this is where they're going to hear the truth and learn we have a goodly heritage and we need to be able to pass it on to somebody else we need to continue in the things that thou has learned and been assured of but we also need to teach others also and so God help us to see the balance the paradox the veils represent here for Bible Baptist church may we stand strong in the truth and in our faith may we be open minded and willing with open eyes and hearts to receive others and bring them in God is going to have to give us that desire God is going to have to put that inside of you and me individually don't just say yeah that one guy is a good soul winner no you and me individually God is going to have to do that work and so let's pray together that he would do that work that he would change in us to give us open eyes and hearts and desire to see souls saved not just desire to have our church but to see

God glorified and changing the lives has he not done that to you do you not remember what you were before you got this book before the gospel entered into your heart so meditate on that for a day and then consider every time somebody comes in that was me that was me and may God use you to facilitate getting them to grow like he did you let's bow for prayer we'll be dismissed father as we conclude this morning I pray that what was said was understood and received in the spirit that it was meant I pray that you would take control of that and not let any of this be presumed to be something it wasn't father it's my desire that you would do a work inside of us first and build us up and make us to be the Christians that we need to be help us to get our eyes off of our busyness and off of ourselves and upon those that you see help us to see them

Lord put a burden upon each one of us to desire to see the lost saved to see those saved grow to see disciples made I pray that you'd rear up and grow some strong men in this church and Lord that you'd grow up some spiritual women that you would be glorified and pleased not just with our lives and our worship but with our activity in seeking the lost and praying for the lost and trying to bring them in and grow those that you do bring by help us to remain firm and yet help us to stay open and accessible and we ask that you do the work inside of our hearts by the grace of God and for Jesus sake Amen