

Politics and Christian Civilization

Ceremonial Precepts: Class Six

REVIEW

- What is a **precept**?
- What is a **moral precept**?
- **Ceremonial Precept**?
- **Judicial Precept**?
- Where are these precepts found?
- From where are the ceremonial precepts derived?
- From where are the judicial precepts derived?
- Define **Discipline**
- How are discipline and morality related?
- Explain difference between “perfect good” and “imperfect good”
- Are the moral precepts revealed as part of the **Divine Law** or naturally known to reason? Explain.
- If naturally known, why are they revealed?
- Put these in proper order relative to the **Decalogue**:
 - (a) thought, word, deed
 - (b) parents, God, neighbor
- Explain mystery of the two stones (love and justice)



Jewish High Priest

CEREMONIAL PRECEPTS:

Involve worship of God but in figure and foreshadowing

Divine worship is twofold, **exterior** and **interior**, **soul** and **body** have to both be involved in worship of God.

Outside worship is ordered to interior. Interior = soul united to God by intellect and affections.

DAVID = My HEART and my FLESH have rejoiced in thee (Psalm 83:3)



EXTERNAL WORSHIP IS FIGURATIVE. In Old Law = figurative of Christ and future heaven. It helped to bind the mind and affections to God. If mind and affections not touched it is empty, merely external ritual without participation of heart and mind, the higher parts of man that make it a spiritual act.

In New Divine Law Christ no longer needs to be foreshadowed, so worship is more spiritual and direct. Christ's kingdom needs to be brought to mind as something present, not something foreshadowed.

Shadow belongs to Old, **image of glory** to New.

In Old Divine Law ceremony divide into **sacrifice**, **sacred things**, **sacraments**, and **observances** that set Israel apart and prepared them for heaven and the Messiah. Set them apart as a chosen people, a nation set apart is different. It is these ceremonies that will make them most different.

It is this difference that they constantly rebel against wanting to be like the other nations. They constantly slip into idolatry and other perversions including perverted forms of government, as we shall see.

Like Catholic priests, the priests of the Old Law were anointed and ordained (Lev 7:35, Exodus 28:40).



*“This is the **anointing** of Aaron and his sons, in the ceremonies of the Lord, in the day when Moses offered them, that they might do the office of priesthood, And the things that the Lord commanded to be given them by the children of Israel, by a perpetual observance in their generations.*

*“For Aaron’s sons you shall make tunics; you shall also make sashes for them, and you shall make caps for them, for glory and for beauty. “You shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him; and **you shall anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them**, that they may serve Me as priests.*

Their sacrifices offered by Levitical Priests foreshadowed Christ and the sacraments of the New Law. Worship of pagans foreshadowed nothing and often under demonic influence.

Jewish ceremonies were divided into:

Sacrifice, Sacred Things, Sacraments, and Observances

(1) SACRIFICE offerings to God except Jewish offerings had no effect on remission of sin but rather instituted for men to give them peace and a clear conscience

Sacrifice of New Law contains Christ, Himself; hence it is efficacious and brings about what it symbolizes. That is why it is a sacrament. Sacrifices of Old Law did not contain Christ, hence they conveyed no sacramental grace necessary for *salvation* and *sanctification*.

All Hebrew sacrifice = imperfect only foreshadowed the perfect.

(2) SACRED THINGS = Instruments used in worship

(3) SACRAMENTS = Preparation for worship by worshippers

(4) OBSERVANCES = Special matters which pertain to a special people such as food and clothing

CLOSER LOOK AT SACRIFICE

God wished sacrifices to be offered not because they were efficacious but because would keep man's mind directed to God by preventing idolatry.

Reason why God choose the animals he did: Egyptians considered it abominable to slay these animals.

“We shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians” (Exodus 8:26).

Egyptians worshipped **sheep** and revered the **ram** because demons appeared under these forms. They employed **oxen** for agriculture held by them to be sacred, so Hebrews annihilated them.

These were considered clean animals fit for sacrifice. Jews insisted nothing but what is clean should be offered as sacrifice (**chews cud** and **divided hoof**)

The Ceremonial Law fixed manner of slaying sacrificial animals to exclude methods employed by idolaters and manner least painful to animals. Excluded cruelty and mangling.

There are many types of sacrifices each with its own subtypes. First important to note that not all were for sins, atonement or expiation, but also for praise, thanksgiving, to promote communion, celebrate feast days or to cleanse a person from ritual impurity having nothing to do with in, such as child birth.

They all involve, giving, substitution, and moving closer to God and neighbor.

3 TYPES OF SACRIFICES:

A **sacrifice** involved the slaughter of an animal to God followed by a feast or a meal.

HOLOCAUST, SIN OFFERING AND PEACE OFFERING

HOLOCAUST or BURNT OFFERING = Burnt offering in which **entire victim consumed** by fire only male could be offered and none eaten to show reverence to God's majesty and love of his goodness. Shows that entire man and whatever belongs to him is subject to God. Shows entire consecration.

A lamb was employed for the daily public holocausts. This offering was to be made every morning and every evening (Ex. xvi. 12; xxix. 39, 41; xxx. 8; Num. xxviii. 4).

The burnt offering represented submission to God's will. The holocaust was completely burnt on the outer altar. Because the offering represented complete submission to God's will, no part of it was eaten by anyone. It is meant to induce communion with God, by expiation for sin. Holocausts could be offered from cattle, sheep, goats, or even birds, depending on the means of offerer.

The poor could offer a turtle dove for a holocaust. A pigeon or turtle-dove served for burnt offerings and sin-offerings or for purification They were allowed as private holocausts, and were accepted as sin-offerings from the poorer people as in case of Mary.

As a rule, the burnt AND expiatory, offerings were animal sacrifices, but in exceptional cases a cereal sin-offering was accepted or prescribed.

SIN OFFERING = For forgiveness of sin and desire to be reconciled with God. 2 parts = One burnt, the other offered to priests to signify remission of sin through ministry of priests. Involved mandatory atonement for specific unintentional sin; confession of sin; forgiveness of sin; cleansing from defilement.

The size of the offering varied according to the nature of the sin and the financial means of the sinner.

Some sin offerings were communal some were for individuals.

If really forgave sin there would have been no need for Christ.

When offering was for entire people or sin of priests, the whole victim was burnt

Most sin offerings for personal sin, were eaten by the priests (For Catholics = prayers after confession for penance)

PEACE OFFERING = This category **has nothing to do with sin**. It is a sub-category of sacrifice for health and prosperity. It involves **thanksgiving** for prosperity or **acknowledgement of benefits and mercy**. (For Catholics = prayers of thanksgiving for gifts received)

Had 3 parts = (1) burnt to God, (2) allotted to priests, (3) for use of offerers. According to Aquinas, this signified = (1) Salvation from God thorough (2) The ministry of priests and (3) The cooperation of those who are saved.

This category included **“Thanksgiving Offerings”** required of those whose lives were spared from various dangers and **“Free Will Offerings”** made after fulfilling a vow. These were voluntary act of worship; thanksgiving and fellowship including a communal meal.

There were also Food and Drink Offerings representing devotion for the fruits of labor to the blessing of God. A portion of the produce was burnt on the outer altar and the remainder given to the priests.

SOME SYMBOLISM AND RULES OF SACRIFICE

Universal rule that **blood** and **fat** were not allotted for use, because idolaters drank the blood and ate the fat.

Because blood = symbol of life, fat of nourishment, the blood was to be poured at foot of altar in honor of God and fat burnt on the altar.

The prohibition on fat was also intended to withdraw them from lasciviousness.

Sins are more grievous by reason of state of sinner (like Adam) thus different victims needed for sin of priest and prince.

More grievous the sin, the lower species of animal offered.

Goat a very base animal offered for idolatry the most grievous sin, a calf for a priest's ignorance and a ram for a prince's negligence.

Wealthy = were to offer a 4 footed animal; poor = bird or bread, flour or corn.

Honey never offered in sacrifices to God because offered to idols.

Salt offered in **all** sacrifices because wards of corruption and putrefaction = sacrifices to God should be incorrupt.

Incense was used to denote devotion of heart.

In designing worship, it is important to note Moses did not make them but recorded what God, Himself revealed (Hebrews 8:4)

“See says He, that thou makest all things according to the pattern shown thee on the mount.”

Greco-Roman Culture could not know ceremonies and did not without violating moral precepts. Needed revelation of Judaic-Christian culture.

Worship regards 2 things, God and man. God did not need a Temple, but men, who are corporeal, needed a special tabernacle to worship him. It induces reverence in worship.

Also temple signified excellence of Christ's divinity. Christ is the Fulfillment of what the Temple symbolized. He is the Temple.

Temple built by Solomon on place where Abraham to offer Isaac as a holocaust to God.

Not a synagogue. Synagogues grew in importance following the Assyrian and Babylonian deportations. They were houses of prayer and teaching. There was to be just one temple and one place to offer sacrifices.

God wished the Hebrews to worship to Him in only **one place** to demonstrate the unity of the Godhead as opposed to pagan gods and temples everywhere having sacrifices offered.

Church takes place of both temple and synagogue = place of worship, sacrifice, and teaching.

Next class will look at temple, solemnities

Or skip and recommend Dr. Marshall's Book if they are interested and they can do five to seven page report for a test grade to be equally weighted with other tests