

Jesus Dwells in Believers' Hearts

After God created Adam and Eve, He dwelled with them in the Garden of Eden: *“And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...”* (Gen 3:8). However, when they sinned God drove them out from the garden because their *“iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear”* (Isaiah 59:2). Fortunately, expulsion from the garden did not mean permanent separation from God because He knew beforehand that they would rebel prompting him to foreordain a way for them and all subsequent sinners to reunite with Him.

We begin to see what God had in mind when Moses built a tabernacle on Mount Sinai as it was in this tabernacle where God promised to once again dwell with His people: *“Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle”* (Exodus 40:34). It was not just the outward tabernacle that attracted God but, rather, it was its inner beauty and purity where everything was cleansed according to God’s demands: it was orderly, anointed with oil and the priests meticulously washed. Most importantly, the tabernacle was the only place where sins could be forgiven; otherwise, man would remain eternally separated from God. Furthermore, the spirit-filled tabernacle traveled with the Israelites on their way to the Promised Land, which depicts how God travels with us today in our walk of faith.

The Mosaic tabernacle is not only a fact peculiar to the Old Testament but it represents the body of a New Testament believer: *“know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”* (1 Corinthians 6:19) Hence, everything recorded in scripture about that tabernacle of old applies to each believer today in which the spirit of God dwells. In order to become a temple in which God will reside, our body must first be cleansed according the God’s word and not according to our own desires. Because it is sin that separates us from God we recognize in those temple worship practices that a penitent soul could willingly confess his sin to a priest at the door of the tabernacle and thus be cleansed of his sin: *“and he shall kill the bullock before the Lord: and the priests, Aaron’s sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about...and the priest shall make an atonement...and it shall be forgiven”* (Lev 1:5; 4:20).

In the New Testament, instead of animal blood, it is *“the blood of Jesus Christ his Son (that) cleanseth us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7). As it was back then, those who are burdened with sin today can still willingly repent to another believer (priest) *“in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”* (Acts 2:38) and, if God grants grace to believe, all past sins are then truly forgiven—it’s just as God intended in the Old Testament. At the point that His spirit enters our heart God says that *“my presence shall go with thee”* (Exodus 33:14) to guide our steps along the way to *“a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away”* (Revelation 21:1).

Like God did in the Garden of Eden, He continues today to dwell with us in our tabernacles not made by hand (Hebrews 9:11); in our hearts that are properly cleansed of sin. And this indwelling spirit is none other than Jesus Christ: *“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever...At that day ye shall know that I am in my father, and ye in me, and I in you”* (John 14:16, 20).

God’s Peace,

Charles Korhonen

<u>February Speakers</u>		
Feb. 7	Ken Storm	11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Feb. 14	Charles Korhonen	11:00 a.m.
Feb. 21	Ken Storm	11:00 a.m.
Feb. 28	Nathan Ruonavaara	11:00 a.m. Potluck Dinner

Church Schedule

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study @10:00 a.m.

Bible Study

Wednesday @7:00 p.m.

Church Cleaning

Mattila Team

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

Website: www.tapiolachurch.org

Contact: Ken Storm, Pastor
(906) 482-3234
(906) 334-2766

Mailing: P.O. Box 531
Houghton, MI 49931

Location: 17602 N. Lake Ave.
Tapiola, MI