

SPEAKERS

August 7 - Ken Storm, Holy Communion

August 14 - Charles Korhonen

August 21 - Ken Storm

August 28 - Bruce Sarkela

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday Service, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study,
7:00 p.m.

CONTACT

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The Door of the Tabernacle

“This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee” - Exodus 29:42

In the Old Testament, it was at the door of the tabernacle where sins were forgiven by God. Forgiveness happened each time a penitent soul voluntarily offered an unblemished animal at the tabernacle door and confessed his sin and killed the animal before a priest standing at the door. The priest would then sprinkle the animal’s blood making atonement for the confessed sin: *“the priest shall make an atonement for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him”* (Leviticus 4:35). As an outward sign of God’s forgiveness, the priest would burn the entire offering on the tabernacle’s altar, signifying that nothing remained of the confessed sin in the eyes of God. Confession in this manner was *“a sweet Saviour unto the Lord”* (Leviticus 1:9).

The tabernacle was the only place to confess sins because it was there where God dwelled on earth. In the beginning, God dwelled with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden because it was a place of purity. However, when the Adam and Eve sin corrupted Eden, God drove them out lest they also ate of the tree of life. It was not until Moses erected the tabernacle that God once again dwelled with His people on earth: *“...the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle”* (Exodus 40:34). Likewise, when Solomon built the temple *“...the glory of the Lord filled the house”* (2 Chronicles 7:1). God chose these particular places to live in because they, like the Garden of Eden, were cleansed of all filth and were made beautiful according to His command. From there God promised to meet with penitent souls and to proclaim forgiveness through His priests.

To emphasize the importance of the tabernacle, Moses explained the implication of confessing one’s sin elsewhere. He said, *“...Whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers which sojourn among you, that offereth a burnt offering or sacrifice, And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer it unto the LORD; even that man shall be cut off from among his people”* (Leviticus 17:8-9). Moses was warning the people that even a well-intended confession of sin done in any other place or in any other manner would not be forgiven. Such confessions were *“sacrifices unto devils”* (Leviticus 17:7).

So far, we have touched upon the Old Testament requirements concerning sin. The question now becomes, *“Where is the door of the tabernacle today?”* Simply put, it has never changed: it is still at the entrance to the tabernacle. And the tabernacle is not a structure built by the hand of man but it is the physical body of a true believer in Christ: *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you”* (1 Corinthians 3:16)? Although not all people are God’s temples, Apostle Peter explains how one becomes a temple of God and thus receives the indwelling Holy Spirit: *“... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”* (Acts 2:38). Therefore, a heart cleansed of all past sins by the sprinkling of Jesus’ sacrificial blood becomes a pure place for God to dwell in. Moreover, a believer is not only a temple of God but is also His priest: *“... ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation”* (1Peter 2:9).

Therefore, today it is still at the door of the tabernacle where God forgives sin. And because each believer is a temple of God, they, as priests, have been given the keys

of the kingdom of heaven to atone for sins confessed by other penitent souls:
“*Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained*” (John 20:23). It’s just as God foreordained.

God’s Peace,
Charles Korhonen