"CHRIST IS ALL.": THE GOSPEL OF THE PENTATEUCH, PP. 1-167

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Trieste

"*CHRIST IS ALL.*"

THE

GOSPEL OF THE PENTATEUCH.

BY THE

VERY REVEREND HENRY LAW,
DEAN OF GLOUCESTER. 1797-1854

LEVITICUS.

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CONTENTS OF LEVITICUS.

"CHRIST IS ALL."

THE BURNT-OFFERING.

"It is a burnt-sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the Lord." LEV. i. 17.

READER, you are invited here to take your stand within the tabernacle's court. A crowded and a busy scene appears. Many worshippers bring many offerings. All is activity. But all the active zeal has one great object—to honour God in God's appointed way.

Each offering in this court is a full page of Gospel-truth. Christ in His grace and work is the golden key to open every part. Leviticus is Calvary foreshown. Calvary is Leviticus unfolded. The one casts forward the morning ray. The other pours down the mid-day blaze. But the early and the brighter beams stream from one Sun—Christ Jesus. The brazen altar is the herald of the cross. The cross re-echoes to the brazen altar's voice.

In a long train of ceremonial teaching the Burnt-offering takes the lead. Let this, then, first be noticed.

An offerer comes. Mark what he brings. If his offering be from the herd, it must be an unblemished male. Lev. i. 3. It must be the choicest produce from his pastures—the primest

flower from his fields. There must be strength in fullest vigour, and beauty without one alloy. Such are the properties required.

The purport is distinct. Jesus is here. The victim chosen before worlds were framed is thus portrayed. Strength and perfection are main colours in His portrait. He is strong, as God can be. The buckler of omnipotence is on His arm. The girdle of His loins is might of might. Hence He is able to achieve the grandest of all victories—even to tread down Satan and his empire. Hence He is able to bear away the weightiest of all burdens—even the vast mass of all His people's sin.

Perfection finds embodiment in Him. His every aspect is beauty, without one flaw. All evil tried Him, but it left no stain. Sin could not touch Him, though He sojourned in its home. Earth saw in Him one sinless inmate. From the manger to the cross, He shone one ray of godlike purity.

O my soul, you need strong help. Repose on Jesus; His strength suffices, and it cannot fail. You need a perfect ransom and a perfect robe. Repose on Jesus; He gave to God a spotless life, a spotless soul, to be your price. He gives to you a spotless righteousness to be your raiment. Thus the unblemished male pictures the beauteous and the strong Redeemer.

We next approach the chambers of the offerer's heart. We read, "He shall offer it of his own voluntary will." Lev. i. 3. There is no compulsion. There is no reluctance. His step is willingness.

This is a picture of faith's happy actings. Its chariot-wheels move swiftly. It feels sin's miserable need. It knows the value of redeeming blood. So it flies, with rapid wing, to plead it at the mercy-seat. Formalists may frequent God's

courts. Habit's cold chains may drag them. Self-righteousness may urge them to the heartless task. But faith is a willing grace.

The eager offerer puts his hand upon the victim's head. Lev. i. 4. Do any ask the meaning of this rite? It graphically shows a transfer. Some load oppresses, which is thus cast off. Some burden passes to another's person.

Here is again the happy work of faith. It brings all guilt, and heaps it on the Saviour's head. One sin retained is misery now and hell at last. All must be pardoned by being brought to Christ. And He is waiting to receive. His office is to be this burden-bearer. His love constrains, and He cannot draw back.

Do any read this, who never have thus dealt with Christ? Sirs, where are your sins? They adhere tighter than your very skin. They have a millstone weight. They press to misery's unfathomable depths. But flee to Jesus. He can remove them all, and He alone.

Believer, where are your sins? On Jesus they are placed, and you are free. I ask again, Where are your sins? You answer, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." Ps. ciii. 12. You may rejoice and sing aloud, Christ is accepted for me: I shall not be condemned. Thus with one hand faith casts away all misery, and with the other grasps all joy.

The victim, to which sins thus typically pass, must die. "He shall kill the bullock before the Lord." Lev. i. 5. Can Jesus, who in reality receives our guilt, not lay down life? It cannot be. The holy Word stands sure: "In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." Gen. ii. 17. The sinner's surety, then, cannot be spared. He gives His life to