

“An Earthly Place of Holiness”

Sermon Notes

➤ **At the tabernacle, we find ourselves in the earthly living room of God...and every square inch points us to Jesus**

1. The precincts of the tabernacle point us to Jesus (vv.1-5)

2. The priests of the tabernacle point us to Jesus (vv.6-7)

3. The problems with the tabernacle point us to Jesus (vv.8-10)

Next Week: Hebrews 9:11-28 - “Offered Once to Bear the Sins of Many”

Community Group Study Questions

Open Your Bible to Hebrews 9:1-10...

1. Read carefully through Hebrews 9:1-10 and the author's description of what he so eloquently refers to as "an earthly place of holiness" (v.1). In verse 2, he simply calls it "a tent". What is this place? Why is it so important to his argument in the Letter to the Hebrews?

2. Using the picture on the reverse side of this study, take a look at an artist's rendering of the courtyard of the original tabernacle. Read the accompanying text in Exodus 27:9-19. What does **the courtyard and its entryway** teach us about our God? How do Leviticus 17:8-9 and 22:18-19 help to answer this question?

3. Now step into the tabernacle courtyard and look about **the bronze altar**. Read the description in Exodus 27:1-8. What does the bronze altar communicate to us about our God? What does Leviticus 4:20 contribute to our understanding?

4. Keep walking toward the tabernacle tent, stopping just outside where you see **the bronze basin**. What happens here (Exodus 30:17-21)? What does the bronze basin communicate to us about our God? How do David's prayers in Psalm 51:2, 7 and 10 bring home the symbol of this furnishing in the tabernacle courtyard?

5. It's time to pull aside the first curtain and enter into **the Holy Place**. Hebrews 9:2 offers a brief description, while Exodus 25:23-40 provides even greater detail. What do **the table, bread, and golden lampstand** tell us about our God? How might Scriptures such as Exodus 24:1-2, 9-11 and Isaiah 2:5 assist us in grasping the significance of these items in the Holy Place?

6. At last, we arrive at **the Most Holy Place (the Holy of Holies)**. Hebrews 9:3-5 sketches the scene, while Exodus 30:1-10

and 25:10-22 offers the fine print. What do **the altar of incense and the ark of the covenant** (with its special contents) teach us about our God? How do truths like the ones found in Psalm 141:1-2, Numbers 7:89 as well as 2 Samuel 6:1-15 serve to unfold the meaning of the furnishings inside the Most Holy Place?

7. Turning to the New Testament, take a moment now to read through John 1:14; 2:19, 21; 4:20-26; 14:10; and Colossians 1:19; 2:9. What do these Scriptures reveal to us about the true nature of Jesus Christ?

8. Now, consider the plain (and stunning!) teachings of passages such as: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1; Ephesians 2:22 and James 4:5. How ought these truths to shape our lives (individually and corporately)?