

# “Chained To The Heart Of God”

**Text: (Exodus 28:15-30)**

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## Intro:

We are all looking for relationship with God - that's why we are here today! You are either,

1. A Christian who is here to learn and grow in your knowledge of and existing relationship with Christ and be a viable, functioning member of His body, or
2. You are here today searching for answers, for peace, for fulfillment.

In either case, we are all in essence looking for relationship with God.

But have you really considered **how** a man might approach the Holy God of heaven? Let me tell you, you cannot approach the Lord in just any old way! There is both a process and a person who may make approach before the Lord God. Nothing else will do!

***Illust*** - You cannot just approach the President of our nation. There is a process and there are people who make it possible. Do you really think that somehow it would be less true with the Lord? There is a process (means) whereby man makes his approach before the Lord and there is a person who is key to our representation before the Lord.

The approach of sinful man before a Holy God of heaven is what our text is ultimately about, and in the description of the special clothing worn by the High Priest is found a marvelous picture of the magnificent love of God!

Let's examine this wonderful "love story" as revealed in our text today.

## I. The Process (The Approach)

1. Give a "walk-through" of entering the court and proceeding to make one's way before the mercy seat of God and ultimately before His own presence.
  - a. Eastern gate (door) - the only entrance
    1. Jesus said "I am the door"  
*(Joh 10:9) I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*
  - b. Altar of sacrifice - blood (life) is spent and the best of the sacrifice made before the Lord
    1. Jesus is the "lamb slain before the foundation of the world"
  - c. Laver - cleansing
    1. We are to receive a "washing of water by the Word", Jesus is the living "Word" of God  
*(Tit 3:4-7) But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
  - d. Lampstand - the only light within
    1. Jesus is the "light of the world"  
*(Joh 8:12) Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*
  - e. Table of shewbread - the only sustenance

1. Jesus said He is the “bread of life”

*(Joh 6:48-51) I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

f. Altar of incense - sweet incense rising is the prayer of the saints

1. Jesus’ intercessory prayer is a “sweet smelling savor” before the Lord

g. Mercy seat - God’s own presence

2. Notice! Every item is symbolic of Jesus, the very Son of God. There is no approach possible before the Lord except through Jesus!

*(John 14:6) “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me.”*

## II. Person (Mediator)

It is critical that you understand the role or function of the priest, especially that of the High Priest. While the priest had many responsibilities in the life of Israel as they served continually before the Lord, above everything else their role was that of a **mediator**.

**[Mediate]** = being between two extremes; intervening; not direct

**[Illust]** - Your pastor serves as “mediator” at times to bring together a married couple who are not in harmony, in fellowship with each other.

1. The High Priest was the **only person on earth** who could pass beyond the veil, behold the ark and mercy seat and offer before the Lord of heaven the confession of sin and the blood of sacrifice which made atonement for the sin of the people. **No one else** could pass beyond the veil and come into the very presence of God! **No One!**

2. The priestly role was symbolic of the **true** and **eternal** High Priest who would one day come. That true High Priest is Jesus!

*(Heb 8:1-2) ¶ Now of the things which we have spoken [this is] the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; (A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*

*(Heb 9:11-12) But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption [for us].*

*(Heb 9:22-24) And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission [It was] therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, [which are] the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

*(Joh 1:35-36) Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!*

*(Isa 53:4-6) ¶ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*(Heb 7:24-25) But this [man], because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

3. But have you noticed something from our text? All the time the High Priest was before the Lord he had something upon his heart - the names of God's children! (17; 21)
  - a. Notice something else, these names were **chained** upon his heart! The children of God were **permanently fixed, immovable** from the heart of their mediator, the High Priest.
  - b. What a wonderful picture of God's
    1. Commitment to save the lost  
*(Lu 19:10) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
    2. Keep his own  
*(Joh 10:27-29) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave [them] me, is greater than all; and no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father's hand.*
4. On the day
  - a. When I called out in faith at the age of 12, **I was on Jesus' heart** - and He heard me! He saved me!
  - b. When I called out in repentance as a Christian, **I was on Jesus' heart** - and He heard me! He forgives me!

***I am "Chained To The Heart Of God"***. I am forever upon His heart. I am forever represented before the Father in heaven. I am forever in His debt! I am forever in His grace!

**Concl:**