

CNL Season 2009  
6.2 Fragrant Altar Part 2  
Transcription

And so the verse that is talking about ransom here is a beautifully phrased word, these people were paying a ransom when the sacrifice was given. It was an annual ransom as you know. So the next verse, if you will read this with me. Romans 8:34, Christ is interceding for us, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ." One of the things whenever you read, I want to give you guys a real thrill, whenever you read the book of Romans or Ephesians or any of the books which Paul wrote. I want you to think about the sacred ritual system which we are learning about today. Paul wrote with the mind of a high priest constantly. When you see that word "separate" would you circle that word? Separate is a verb simply dealing with that we are not in the same room perhaps; we're not close to God. It says here that Christ is interceding; intercession is the work of who? That's right, Jesus the high priest. Say that with me, "Jesus the high priest". Intercession is a priestly function. Therefore as you read the rest of the verse, once you have the clue that the word "intercession" is a priestly function, it says, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ." Where was the separation? It was right here. Who can separate us from the presence of God? Nobody now. Because of the work of Christ. But at one time, wasn't Israel separated from the presence of God. Absolutely! There was a veil; the door was shut in the Garden of Eden. The veil was shut to the Holy of Holies. There was a separation. Intercession. Separation. So somehow the high priest was allowed to break through the separation and get one with God, which we now permanently have, which is the work of Christ. We're going to actually see this veil; this is blue, red and purple. Blue representing heaven, therefore the deity of Christ, red representing the atonement, the blood and purple representing the priesthood as well as the intercessory work of Christ. And so what you have as well as royalty the kingship and so what you have here is, colors, I shouldn't give it away, but we'll find out with what this veil was actually identified later on by Paul. If you read Paul's writings, think about the high priesthood. Suddenly when you read the Bible, if you

have been doing it with the American middle class mind set, when you read passages by Paul now, you see clue words like intercessor, mediator, propitiation, sanctification, justification and atonement. Any of these words, if they are in the passage, go “ he’s talking about the priesthood!” Suddenly all of these pictures will come back to you. You’ll see the New Testament as you have never seen it before. The next thing is 3. Prayer is a good habit. Prayer is a good habit. I was fascinated about the word “ransom” just as a note, its back in the verse. Usually when there is a ransom done, somebody is getting something even though they are paying over money but when God ransomed us. What did He really give? All he got back was the people that He really loved. But He didn’t gain anything personally from it. He just got back what He already had and was His to begin with but that Satan stole it, kidnapped it. He got back that which was already His to begin with. Then he paid a dear price for it. That’s what prayer is all about. For us it’s a simple, “Dear Father, ... that’s great isn’t it? For Jesus it was crucifixion. It was the wrath of the Father. For us prayer is simple, but for God it was quite an excruciating experience, do you understand? So don’t take it for granted, often I think that when we don’t pay a high price, we don’t appreciate the product. Do you know what I’m talking about? If somebody gives you a gift, you may treat it slovenly, but if it took you 5 years of saving to buy that thing, you would treat it well, wouldn’t you? And sometimes we do receive grace; it is a free gift of God. And because it is a free gift of God, we treat it as second class item. We shouldn’t because it was a first-class price, amen? Amen. The third thing, it’s a good habit. I want you to read.... You habits, habits are great. First day cabbage, cabbage is great, second day cabbage, cabbage is great, third day, where’s that ice cream? 30 days is a long time. So God knew that we needed to develop good habits. I want to show you the word “habit” somewhere else here. If you will read Exodus 30:7 first of all, “And Aaron shall burn sweet incense every morning.” Now do you think Aaron got up in the morning and said, ooo, ahh, I don’t think God will notice, I’ll skip the incense today. How many of you think he’d do that? He probably thought, I had two sons take fire from the other place, got consumed, (inhale) I’m going to work, Yeh! (laughter)

That's what happened. Every morning, why? Because God knew that it had to be a habit. But it was a habit for a good thing. It was a habit which was positive. We all get so caught up in habits or even work, that we forget some of the good things that we should be doing. Hebrews 10:19, read this with me, this is another 3 week sermon by itself, but we're going to just go through it. "Therefore brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Holy of Holies, by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way open for us through the curtain that is His body. And since we have a great High Priest over the house of God, let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing but encourage one another." Now we'll stop right there. Just look at the words very carefully there. First of all it says, therefore brothers since we have confidence in the Holy of Holies, by what? The blood, say the blood. The blood. The reason the high priest could come up here is because he had the blood. And on the Day of Atonement, he would go and sprinkle that blood. And the reason we have this where you can still see Mike, by the way Mike thank you Mike Lampkin for doing the part. You wouldn't be able to see him obviously, that's because you all could see that it was there. When he went and sprinkled the blood his confidence came by the blood. Now if that high priest had dared to walk in there without the blood on the Day of Atonement, I'm going to tell you he would have been struck dead. How dare you, the Father would have said, walk into My presence without covering. Because God is Holy without sin and man has sin and God would have STRUCK him before he could have walked through that door. What gives us the ability to come into the presence of God is because of the blood. Our confidence comes because of the blood. You and I pray confidently because of the work we've done? No, God knows what we have done, we don't come in confidence because of what we've done, we come in confidence because of the work that Christ has done. And that construction there deals with the confidence of the priest being based upon the work of Christ, He says by a new and a living way. There's a new way, an open way now. Open for us through the curtain. Read these next words with me. "That is His body." Paul says this curtain is what? The body of Christ. Now I've been doing research for the book, Lord willing I finally

have a major publisher that is probably going to publish this book , it's really exciting called "Thief" but in the research that I did for it, one of the neat things is, there is a thesis which some archeologists hold and that is this. As you know when Christ was on the cross as He was being torn, torn, torn, torn, ripped, the veil of the temple did what? It ripped in half, rent in twain is what it says in the King James. And while Christ was on the cross being torn, the veil was being torn because Christ's sacrifice of blood, blood, blood was enabling man now to come into the Holy of Holies with the freedom of a high priest. Are you all with me? Because the confidence that they now could have because it was an eternal blood, it wasn't just a once a year. Now one of the interesting things about this is that Christ hung on the cross, just think about it. What is this made out of? This is made out of brass. What is under the brass? Wood. Remember what wood stands for? Humanity. Say that, humanity. Wood equals humanity. Say that. Wood equals humanity. When you are a Jew and you look at the construction of things, when you see wood, it symbolizes humans. Sinful humans. Sin was covered by judgment, right? Now what you're looking at is that Christ hung on the cross. What was the cross made out of? Wood. When he was pierced, what poured upon that wood? Blood. That's atonement; can you say the word atonement? Atonement is covering. That's why the high priest could never come in here without blood because God would say "You can't come in here unless you're covered by something." Because your sin, sinful priest even though they were good guys, they were sinful, has to be covered. So you see Christ hanging on the cross, He is being torn open, alright? Blood is going upon the wood which is covering the sins of humanity, pierced in four places. Pierced in four places, three nails, possibly four, some historians believe four. Pierced in four places, that you have piercings in four places. The four nails are covered with what? Blood. The four horns covered with what? Blood. So as He hung on that cross, as He was bleeding to death, now this is extremely important, as He was bleeding to death, what were the last words that He said? There were three groups of words, one was, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." You probably remember when He said *Eli, Eli, lama sabacthani*" *Father, Father,*

forgive them for they know not what they do. Number 1. Then He says to the thief, "Today you will be with Me in paradise." The Garden of Eden originally, we have paradise now. Paradise, the Temple, Jesus was actually saying the words of the high priest, you know why, because when He said, Father forgive them for they know not what they do. Guess what on the Day of Atonement, the priest used to say when he came into this room and sprinkled blood. "Father forgive Israel for what they have done." Are you all with me? Father forgive Israel for what they have done was what the priest said. So the interesting thing is, as Jesus hung on the cross bleeding to death as the lamb, He was literally saying the ritual rights of a high priest. He was a priest saying Father forgive them as He shed His own blood as the Lamb. Extraordinary event. One of the thesis which have been brought up out of archeology and I'm almost persuaded by is that there is a chain of hills, if you were to stand in the Tabernacle. Ok, in the Temple in Jerusalem, Herod's Temple. As you face east and as you head north south east, you notice how this is not straight? If you every see this straight it is wrong. There was a loop here and a loop here and they carried this only on two stakes and this was headed north south east which showed the basic four tribes of Israel and it also identified that when prayer was done, it was done for all four corners, all of Israel. It is interesting because this being turned this way makes you see a line of sight this way as you connect horns and a line of sight this way which actually creates the form of a cross. This was built centuries before crucifixion was even invented. This design is the form of a cross and you have blood there and you have blood here. So as we look into this right here, there is so much to share, but anyway. If you were to stand here as a high priest in the days of Christ and look out of the temple, you'd be able to see at the edge of the courtyard, this gulley, this huge valley and it's called Valley Kidron, the Kidron

Valley. And when I was a 19 year old kid I used to run around when I lived in Israel, I would run around the Valley Kidron all the time. I was looking for artifacts and digging up stuff and climbing over top of things I shouldn't have been and other stuff. So there's this Kidron Valley and on the other side is a hill and it's called the Mount of Olives. You've heard about the Mount of Olives. It's this mountain, this hill that goes through, that eastern part of Jerusalem. Now what's interesting about that is this Kidron Valley and this Mount of Olives we do know that in the First Century we go back years and it was called Golgola – which sounds very close to translated loosely to the word Golgotha. If in fact Jesus had been crucified there at Golgola, had He been crucified across the Kidron Valley, literally He would have been rent and as he was being rent and twain for the sins of man as slaughtered as the lamb, He would have been looking at that time of the year, Passover He could have been looking straight across into the high priest, into the temple and watching the activities of what He was doing on the cross as high priest. When the veil rent in twain, the Roman soldier said what? "He must be..." what? The son of God." And if you look at the construction of that passage, there is a possibility that phrase, "He must be the son of God," is at the time that the sun is blackened out and the veil is tearing in half. What if that soldier had actually turned and looked across the valley and watched this black come over the sky and watched the temple which we happened to know had about a 30 ton piece of stone, solid stone that went across the top of it which held this huge veil. What if he had seen it at that time which we know according to Josephus and according to writings broke and thundered down at that point ripping the veil in half. What if he had seen that and seen that awesome thing happen and looked at Christ and seen Him torn and said, surely you must be the Son of God. Interesting huh? Now what's extraordinary about

this entire thing, God's timing is never off. I don't think that it is a coincidence that the veil ripped in half at the same time Jesus was torn in twain. And at that time Christ would have been able to look from the hill as He was dying before He said His last prayer, by the way, do you realize two of the last things that Jesus did was pray on the cross? Father forgive them for they know not what they do, do you think prayer's important? He looks and says, today you will be with me in paradise. The purpose of prayer is to connect Heaven and earth. Today you will be with me in paradise. And then at the very end, as He is about to give up his Spirit, He prays. What we have is prayer as the last act of the high priest before He forever enters the presence of His Father. Isn't that extraordinary? And Jesus the High Priest, I believe hung on the cross and looked straight across as the veil ripped open and finally the job as intercessor, the job as lamb had been done. He said, "It is finished." Not just I'm dead, the veil being opened, this veil being permanently ripped open and he looked across the valley and said, it's finally finished. Now they can come home any time they want, they can walk in the cool of the garden anytime they want, they can be in my presence anytime they want. Lamb and priest as well. Blows my mind, okay, verse 32, I've got 20 more things I could share with you that are extraordinary events that happened that day which are historically provable that are parallel to scripture but we don't have time for them. Anyway, yeah, buy the book (laugh). And number 32, I'm just kidding. Would you read verse 32? Remember those earlier days after you have received the light" now you're thinking like a Jew and you're thinking like Paul, and you're thinking like a high priest because we know it said Holy of Holies and we know it's a priestly deal. High Priest we know that's the house of God, and that's the Holy of Holies. So why in 32 does it say, "Remember the earlier days, when you received the light." I think because He's

walking us through the High Priest, the High Priest is walking us through and he comes to verse 32 and he says, "Do you remember the days.... (shooooom) the veil was opened and (shoom) and we saw what? The LIGHT! The shikinah Glory, the presence of God. That you've got to come into the presence of God and he saying remember it, why? Same word when Jesus says do this in what? Do this in remembrance of me. Remember the day you first got to be a high priest yourself, remember the day that you got to go with the high priest, remember the day that they didn't hold you in courtyard saying "No entrance." They didn't hold you at the holy place and say, "No entrance." Remember the day that the veil was opened and you got to come into the presence of God and you saw the light. That's more than a parable or a philosophical statement, you and I have entered into the presence of God and the same that the high priest saw the light once a year. This He did for us. This He did for us, who while we were yet in sin, Christ what? Died for us. I think that is extraordinary. Number 4, we've got to boogie. Where does the time go, oh! Ok, one more verse. Ok, Matthew 12:34. Would you read this with me? "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." James 3:12, read that with me. Can a fig tree bear olives, can a green vine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. Do you know why that verse is important? Because it's true as you know speech patterns, I mean if you really have a corrupt heart, are you really going to say anything but an inevitably corrupt things? Jesus says you have to have change within you. Why do you pray? The reason that we pray ladies and gentlemen is for the critical need that we need to change our language. And if you spend one minute a month in prayer and 24/7 and the other 29.99 days with the world, who are you going to talk like? Like if I came up here and said, (in southern accent) Hi, I want to let ya'all know that I'm speaking today and my name is Billy Bob Johnson and I start

talking like that. You'd probably come up here and say which part of the South are you from? I wouldn't go, "How'd you know?" (laughter because his accent makes it obvious where he is from) We talked about accents. It's my accent that would give me away right. Your accent is based upon where you spend the majority of your time. So God says make it a habit to pray and you know why because if you come into my presence..... How many of you would swear when you're in front of God when you pray? You say, that's terrible! Yes, and the one time that you're with God and you speak a language which is a righteous language, you will speak a righteous language when you are outside the presence of God when you're talking with people. Amen? God is calling the church to be changed, He doesn't need Sunday rituals for everybody to come dressed up with smiles and then go home. God is calling for change. That is the purpose of the biblical church and so here God is talking about. You know if you want to bear sweet water you're going to have to have a sweet pool that it comes from, and that's prayer. Next thing, there is so much here that is so neat, I don't know why it took me longer to get to this point than it did yesterday, but anyway, Number 4. Consistent and Constant. Rather than speaking fast, I'll just try to do bullet points. Consistent and Constant, Chronicles 13, will you read this with me? Every morning when Aaron dresses the lamps and when he lights the lamps in the evening, he shall burn incense upon it. When? It says every morning and every evening. Now I want you to read the next verse, Genesis 3:8. In the cool of the day, "Where are you?" God said. God said, Where are you? Remember when God said "Where are you". When God came and they had sinned and He was looking for Adam and Eve? When did He appear in the garden? The cool of the day. Now at Texas noon, you burst into flames when you go outdoors so when is the best time to be in the cool of the day? When are the two best times to

experience the cool of the day? Early morning and evening. And its so fascinating to me that the high priest twice a day came here. He came in the cool of the morning and the cool of the evening. We have a parallel, I'm convinced , the Garden of Eden is parallel to the Tabernacle. And in the Tabernacle you see that it is in the cool of day and the cool in the evening and in the garden when did God come to talk with Adam? In the cool of the day. Specifically it didn't even say in the morning or evening, it said in the cool of the day. Good habit, morning and night. Symbolically you know when we go through dark times in our lives, we need to pray ahead of times. And the day that Jesus, the Son is going to rise and He's going to come again, you know from heaven, we should be praying before He comes. We should be praying hard times, and we should be praying in good times. We should pray at night because if you're carrying anything the bible says Let not the sun go down on your wrath, if you have anything to confess to the Lord, confess it at night and deal with it and at night you can have a peaceful sleep. When you wake up in the morning pray a blessing on the day that God deliver and direct you. I have to tell you what do we do the first when we wake up in the morning, we think what time is it, I've got to get to work. We take a shower and we take off to work and do we even include God? We leave Him out. He says I'm asking for the cool of the morning I'm asking for the cool of the evening, give me the moment. That's when the high priest did it. He did by habit and if you work to develop that habit for 30 days you will find it hard to wake up and get going without praying first.

You have a hard time going to sleep without it. It is a great habit. The next verse, let's go ahead and read Ephesians 6:18 "Pray all the time. If you ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes, plead with Him, reminding him of your needs and keep praying earnestly

for all Christians everywhere. I hope you never see the word remember or reminder ever the same again. Consistent remembrance of where our passion where our heart is is what is critical. Let's jump down to Number 6 now. Prayer is a group effort. Prayer is a group effort. I have to tell you that God calls us to pray together. There are verses in Matthew 18, 19 and 20. Would you read this? If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For when two or more are gathered in my name, there am I with them. The next verse, James 3:14 and 16. Call the elders of the church usually local to pray over him confess your sins one to another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. And the printer has chopped off the last words as you can see there, but it is saying call the elders, get together, two or more. God says get together as a family and pray. We talked about the importance of this ladies and gentlemen. I can not encourage you enough to spend time. Last night we held hands in a circle and prayed. I just thought what a blessing, we should pray and thank the Lord for the prayer we just had and that we got to pray. There are so many things that we should get together as the body of Christ, because I'll tell you the team that prays together, plays together better than ever. And that's including the family. The family that God has given you. Number 7 last point. Prayer changes things. Circle the word changes things. Prayer changes things. James 3;15, would you read that with me? And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. The righteous man is powerful and effective, you have not because you ask not of God. Prayer changes things. Have you gotten to the point where you figure, you know what I had that one prayer and I was really talking to the Lord but it really just didn't happen. I just don't pray as much because I don't think He hears me. Have you ever done that? Come on. I have, we've all done that, haven't we? When we've gotten to

the place we just think He's not listening so we say, "why bother?" Gentleman if you ask your wife to cook bacon and eggs for breakfast and she doesn't, she just doesn't hear that request. Do you just stop talking to her altogether? Wives, if he doesn't pick up those socks, do you just stop talking to him all together? No. No. Actually you insist more, don't you? Don't you go back and talk to him even more? Maybe you will wear his sock as a mitten when you're cooking (laughter) so he'll get the point so he'll pick them up. What has happened is that we're like children because we pout because God didn't give it to us and we're not going to talk to him anymore. (laughter) Then we say, why don't I have power in my life? If you pray one week or one day or one minute out of 30 days, you're going to have 1/30<sup>th</sup> the power you should have. This isn't rocket science. If you fill up your gas tank because you refuse to spend money on high prices and you only fill it up once a year, tell me are you going to get a lot of places? No, the first week you might get somewhere but you're going to sit in your car in your driveway and say, I'm going to teach the government, I'm not going to buy gas. What's going to happen? You're not going to get anywhere. When you stop praying by habit, not by ritual but by relationship ladies and gentlemen you can't complain when suddenly your life is making less and less sense. In the cool of the evening, in the cool of the morning, the priest was here. He wasn't doing it as a ritual, he was doing it in remembrance of a relationship. And that's why you're supposed to pray. Remember the relationship God had with you when God gave you His life. If nothing else has gotten on the earth but that you have come out way ahead. But He says, hey come on, name the animals with me, I love you, I want to hear from you. Talk to me, it's not irrelevant, it's not frivolous, just come and talk to me about anything. You know the phrase, I never heard a man on his death bed complain that he didn't spend more hours at the

office, but heard many say he should have spent more time with his family. I'm going to add something to that, I think during our lives we look back at what a lot of the problems that we had and if we would have been in more fellowship with the Lord we would not have gone through the painful times that we had. Right? There's many a man and woman who looks back at life and says, "I wish I would have spent more time with Him." Let me give you a closing story. I remember as a little boy my dad had sat with us one time as a family. Kind of cool story but it was about three men who were riding horses in the middle of the night. As they rode their horses galloping in the pitch dark as they were coming toward an almost dried up stream they heard a voice say, "halt." It was such demanding, commanding voice these three horseman actually halted. The voice said get off your horses. They obeyed and they got off their horses. And the voice, the very commanding voice, the men were frightened of this voice said, "pick up the pebbles near your feet". They reached out and picked up some pebbles that were in the water, just some little tiny pebbles, they picked them up and put them in their pockets. The voice said, "Ride away, you've been obedient so I want you to get on your horses and ride off". And in the morning you will be both joyful and you'll be sad. They got on their horses and they began to ride for another hour and a half and as the sun came up they stopped looked at each other and wondered what had all that been about. Then they went into their pockets and pulled out and magically somehow in their ride in the hour and a half as they pulled out these stones had turned into sapphires and diamonds, rare jewels worth a fortune. And they remember his words, in the morning you'll be both sad and happy. As they sat there exalted, joyful that they had now these expensive jewels then it suddenly struck them how sad they were that they had not gotten more. Look at your prayer with God that way. Are you glad

that you are in the presence of God, available anytime amen? Are you glad that God, the day that you were broken, fell on your knees and said God I believe who you are, forgive my sins aren't you glad that He was there. Yeah you got many a jewel in your life but isn't it true when you looking back at the sorrows and despair and the things that you've gone through because you were not connected with God and were not obedient to God and that you had sorrow that you didn't have more time with Him? So it is today. My encouragement to you is very simple, make a habit of prayer, make a habit of prayer. Make a habit of prayer. Do it for 30 days. Do it in the cool of the evening, do it at night so you can release what has happened in the day so you can have peaceful sleep until the morning. Pray God's blessing over your day and I'm going to tell you something, you'll never regret it. I'll guarantee on your death bed you'll not look back and say Father I wish I would have spent less time with you. Because you're about to meet Him face to face. I strongly encourage you, you'll probably be in a much more joyful position if you're about to meet him face to face if you got to know Him before you get there. Amen? So today, prayer. The power of prayer, God is right now in our lives like I said before in the cool of the evening walking up to us and saying, where are you? And this week, starting tonight, let's all encourage one another. Let's be joyful. Looking back and saying I wish I had more pebbles, more time with the Lord. But you know what life isn't over, just look ahead and let's grab a bigger handful. Amen?