**Today’s Light**

Week 9 – March 29

**Monday, March 29**

Read Exodus 34

Zoom In – Some Old Testament regulations that seem random, strange, or unpredictable become clear when we start to understand their historical context. The prohibition in the last sentence of 34:26 is one example. The Canaanites observed this practice as a fertility rite. God did not want His people participating in pagan worship.

**Tuesday, March 30**

Read Exodus 35-36

Zoom In – Psalm 86:11 is a helpful prayer for halfhearted or discouraged servants of the Lord.

 *Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.*

**Wednesday, March 31**

Read Exodus 37-38

Zoom In – As we read God’s Word, we feast on the bread that sustains and nourishes our spirit. In Holy Communion, we receive in, with, and under the bread Christ’s own body given for us into death. We come home to God’s house to eat a meal with our eternal family. What a privilege!

**Thursday, April 1**

Read Exodus 39-40

Zoom In – The garments worn by the priests were made of the finest fabrics. They gave Aaron and his sons a dignity Israel’s priests did not possess in and of themselves. But Christ Jesus carried a dignity all His own as the eternal, sinless Son of God. The honor He deserves came not from His clothing but from His identity and from His holy work. He hung naked on the cross. And yet the glory of who He is and of what He came to do never shone more brightly than from Calvary.

**HOLINESS IN LEVITICUS**

 As we begin to read Leviticus, it may help our understanding if we review the meaning of *holiness*. This theme ties the entire book together.

 On a simplistic, surface level, *holy* means “sinless and hating sin”. But as we study Scripture, we see that its meaning goes much deeper than this. Holiness is a characteristic of God Himself! “Holy” people and “holy” things were set aside as God’s own possessions, dedicated for His glory. So, for instance the innermost room of the tabernacle was the “Most Holy Place”.

Outward from there, like a series of ever-larger rings of decreasing holiness, lay the following:

* The Holy Place
* The tabernacle court
* The camp of the Levites
* The camp of Israel’s other tribes
* The nations outside Israel

 This arrangement spoke Law to the hearts of sinners. All humanity fell far short of the holiness of heart and life the Lord required. But the arrangement also protected sinners, for when the sinful and the holy came into contact, all sin was destroyed (cf. Leviticus 10:1-2; 2 Samuel 6:1-7) – and the sinner along with it. Thus, the “circles of holiness” served as a set of “quarantine zones” designed by God in grace to protect those whom He had come to save.

 The God of Leviticus is not “the guy upstairs” or “my pal in the sky”. Our God is an awesome God, the holy God, and the merciful God in Jesus Christ.

**Friday, April 2**

Read Leviticus 1

Zoom In – Reread the words of “Take My Life” (in Sharpen the Focus) and then pray them boldly. Look for ways to live today to honor the One who lived and died for you.

**Saturday, April 3**

Read Leviticus 2-3

Zoom In – Peace, “shalom” to Old Testament believers, meant more than a lack of conflict. When God gave peace, it included physical health, prosperity, and wholesome relationships with the Lord and with other people.