**The Bronze Basin**

**Exodus 30:17-21 & 38:3**

There are few things essential for life, but water is one of them. This is one of the reasons God likens our need for him to water.

Psalm 63:1 – *O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

Psalm 143:6 – *I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.*

God also uses the metaphor of water for his forgiving work in our lives. Knowing God is essential to life. Forgiveness is also essential.

Psalm 51:2 – *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!*

The basin was the final piece of furniture God instructed Moses to build.

Like the altar, it was made form bronze mirrors (Ex 38:3). Glass was unknown at the time and so mirrors were polished to the point a reflection could be seen.

 **First: Baptism as a Sign of that Initial Cleansing**

The Israelite:

1. The priest the outer court through one of three doors
2. Sacrificed an animal on the brazen alter
3. Moved to the brazen laver for cleansing

1 Peter 2:9 - *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation…*

In the New Testament world, water is used as the visible sign of the forgiveness of sin

Acts 2:38 - *And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins*

1 Peter 3:21 - *Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*

Baptism is an external sign of an internal experience

Hebrews 10:19-21 - *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,****20****by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,****21****and since we have a great priest over the house of God,****22****let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water*.

 **Second: The Need for Continual Cleansing**

The priests ministered barefooted, so they needed to cleanse their hands and feet after each sacrifice and the priests were constantly sacrificing animals.

The laver was in continual use. Every time a priest offered a sacrifice, he then had to go and cleanse himself.

But notice that the laver is on the other side of the altar of sacrifice.

If we follow the progression toward the Holy of holies, it means we come to God by the sacrifice of Jesus and then need to continually cleanse ourselves of sin. This not salvation but sanctification.

John 13:5-10 - *Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.****6****He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?”****7****Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”****8****Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.”****9****Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”****10****Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet,[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+13%3A5-10&version=ESV#fen-ESV-26629a)*] but is completely clean. And youare clean, but not every one of you.”*

This could be akin to the concept of Lordship salvation. If we have come to Christ, as we make our way toward God, we will live holy.

Christians desire to live holy

Psalm 51:7 – *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

Just like the priest knew he needed to be clean to approach the Lord, so we also know that we need to be clean to approach God.

1 John 1:7-9 - *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.****8****If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.****9****If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.****10****If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

1. “We” includes John so…
2. Christians sin
3. The blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin
4. But we still sin
5. We should not deceive ourselves or lie about it
6. We should confess our sins – *homologeo* = to say the same thing
7. God is faithful – He will do it every time
8. God is just – He will not hold it against us
9. He will forgive us –
10. He will cleanse us –

One way we live clean before the Lord is by reading the Bible

Ephesians 5:25-26 - *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,****26****that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word…*

 **Third: Unending Cleansing**

The bronze laver was the only piece of Tabernacle furniture that didn’t have dimensions.

The reason is that God’s forgiveness is continual.

There is a difference between relationship and fellowship –

We are saved once-and-for-all by the sacrifice of Jesus.

We maintain our fellowship with God by confession.

We have been born again into God’s family. We are also adopted into God’s family. We are God’s children. Sinning cannot harm our relationship but it can grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30) and quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 5:19).

After we are Christians, we don’t confess our sin to maintain our relationship

* We have passed the brazen altar and are on our way to the Holy of holies

But we confess our sin to maintain our fellowship with God.

 **Conclusion:**

The laver not only reminds us of the need for cleansing/forgiveness but its unending availability.