

FOUR SQUARE

"that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the BREADTH, and LENGTH, and DEPTH, and HEIGHT," Gal. 3:18.

God's message has always been perfectly fitted to all Old Testament Types. As leader of the Old Covenant, Moses was instructed to "Square Up" the items for service.

1. The Altar, "The Altar shall be **FOURSQUARE**," Ex. 27:1.
2. Breastplate of Judgment, "You shall make a breastpiece of judgment...**FOURSQUARE**, it shall be...", Exodus 28:15, 16.
3. Incense Altar, "Its length shall be one cubit, and its width a cubit; **FOURSQUARE** it shall be," Exodus 30:2.

FOURSQUARE is in Ezekiel's measurement of the LORD'S (Millennium) Temple, from chapter 40, and on. The court in front - where the sons of Zadok came to minister to the LORD, was "100 cubits long and 100 cubits wide; **FOURSQUARE**" Ezekiel 40:47.

John, the Beloved, with his "**gold measuring rod**" (Rev 21:15), determined the size of the Holy City of New Jerusalem. "The city is laid out as a **SQUARE**, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, 1500 miles; its length and width and height are equal," Revelation 21:16.

Thus, the Lord's salvation works the same. It **SQUARES** man up; which is completed by grounding them in the Love of Jesus, His Son.

But, if we are to see All **FOUR SIDES** of God's work and be **SQUARED UP**, we must reciprocate His love - back to Jesus and His people.

Isn't this the meaning of John 13:24? "**A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**" Either, we see it His way or, His work will be cut short. Soon, we'll start thinking that our feelings are equal with "**Thus, saith the LORD.**" Everyone will be okay. Why, we'll be just like Protestants.

But, because of doctrine, the protestant thought won't fit into God's covenants, where everything is "squared up" and fits perfectly. The covenant is final. Paul tries to explain about covenants, pointing out that confirmation means, "**No man disannulleth, or addeth to it,**" Gal 3:15.

Rome changed the New Covenant and Protestants protested against the changes. However, there is no change and, no amount of protesting will change anything, anyway.

Clearly, the New Covenant was confirmed by the blood of Jesus (Heb. 9). Therefore, every believer has to realize that we belong to Him. We are under His grace to do it His way; but, only His way.

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the

eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge you conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Heb 9:14.

In order to have appreciation for the Love of Jesus we cannot limit His work to only a two dimensional view. According to Paul, God's marvelous grace has more to it than being saved from hell. He includes "Depth," which gives every believer a deeper and fuller revelation than the often heard, "I am born again."

Depth of knowledge takes us to the cross, keeps us in service and brings about a Bridal relationship with Jesus. With His Bride, the nations will be ruled when the kingdom comes to earth (Rev 2:26). Depth knows something about Jesus and what was said in His Parables.

Clearly, the Bible is a book that presents a FOURSQUARE plan. It PLUMBS a believer throughout - **"unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them," Ephesians 2:10.**

A "squared-up" person is one that hears **"all the counsel of God," Acts 20:27.** No watered down or, "feel good" message, will satisfy.

Missionary Baptists have always believed that one cannot be "square-up" without belonging to the body of Christ, the church. Saved, Yes! But, the Bible does not support a universal, invisible church teaching. We have to see all sides of the square; not, merely one or two.

Further, "squaring-up," has to fit all Scripture and, it has to make sense. To believe that every way is accepted by the Lord is to deny judgment of the nations (Mt 25) and the judgment seat of Christ; where, we all shall give an account. Some will hear, "well done." But, too many hear, "Depart."

Although, It has been a long time since Jude wrote that **"faith was once** (and for all) **delivered to the saints,"** God works to same, today. He is slow to change.

That's a good thing for us. And, looking at the length of time God took to dispense His plan, especially, in the Old Testament, we have to exclude works of flesh; for, all the flesh does is change.

In the travel of the Jews, we see Salvation both, in a spiritual and physical sense. It becomes clear that salvation from bondage is one thing, but faithful service is another (see I Cor 10; Heb 4). Peter knew this and encouraged the brethren to see their calling in FOURSQUARED light - **"...give diligence to make your calling and election sure" (of); for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall," 1st Peter 1:10.**

It is a wonder, as we view the many types given in the Tabernacle. It is God's design of salvation. The Tabernacles gives New Testament believers a final view; with God taking us from the known to the unknown.

It is, therefore, a sad thing that folks, even saved ones, fail to make the spiritual transfer needed to understand ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED and, that the saved are required to be obedient in service. However, not one Israeli returned to Egypt; thus, once saved, always. Just as important, not all that came out entered the Promised Land. There's a reason for this.

And, a lot of that reason can be seen in the material of the Tabernacle. Every piece of cloth, each board and, all skins, along with the various metals, were spiritual revelations - symbols of spiritual truth.

Discernment of meanings is everywhere in God's building. We see just how awful sin was; and is. The hopelessness of bondage is clearly pictured. And, God's payment to set man free brings expectant joy to the heart. These and more paint the picture of salvation.

The Tabernacle Type, with all the Holy days and special times, were meant to carry us, step by step, to the dwelling place of the Lord. Of course, this was accomplished in Christ's work; thereby, granting an immediate position, which comes in the first act of faith in Jesus.

But, let's walk the Tabernacle to better appreciate Christ's finished work. The first act of faith brings us to the Sacrificial Altar. Faith continues us to the next stop, the washing. Faith doesn't stop and, we are fit for service within the Holy Place. Finally, each believer has a once-a-year admittance in the Holy of Holies.

God's presence is restricted to man, until Jesus becomes our High Priest. This shows us just how holy God, and His presence are. And, thanks to the Lord, in the Person of Jesus, we may go to the Father - right into His Ark and His Mercy Seat, at any time. We may stay there as long as we desire. The New Testament guarantees it!

As the physical objects give way to their spiritual meaning, we understand, if in only a small degree, what God demanded. But, what becomes totally clear, salvation can only be accomplished by God, Himself. Thus, "**the Word became flesh,**" (John 1:14) and Jesus met God's demands and paid the price as an innocent offering. Praise God!

While, it is true that those within the Old Testament failed to grasp full spiritual meaning of what they did; they did, however, erected and utilized the Tabernacle, exactly as the pattern that was given on Mount Sinai.

In its construction and operation, we see the priests working through those patterns and types of symbolic truth. These types will give way to the one way they represented; to the Person of Jesus.

But, we must remember that He competed all that the Tabernacle demanded. In our studies, we revisit the walk through the Tabernacle for appreciation, but we are fully aware that it is God and His doing through His Lamb. Never, can we think to re-do what He has already done.

God is a FOUR SQUARE, Spiritual Being. Man, until the Spirit of God quickens him, doesn't square-up the Lord. We have the O. T. for learning; but, let us not think that we can square ourselves.

The priests were not allowed to even square up their beards. Neither, could they wear cotton clothing; which, makes sweat, giving the idea of work. The priests could not ascend to the altar in steps, either. They had to walk an incline. No appearance of work could be presented in the meaning of the Lord's salvation.

Clearly, God did not leave it up to the ability and notion of the priest in the O. T.; and, for sure, it isn't up to believers in the New, either.

When we walk through the Tabernacle, in our minds, each stop - from the Sacrificial Altar to the Holy of Holies, is NOT to be seen in a physical way; that is, as a physical fulfillment. Rather, each place we stop and each piece of furniture we observe, offers meaning that Jesus has been there and completed all its meaning.

While, the priests stepped physically, the spiritual meaning was limited to the types they administered. But, when Jesus stepped physically, He also stepped spiritually. Man, finally enters into the presence of God; now that all Lawful demands have been fulfilled.

The physical Sacrificial Altar has been replaced by the Cross of Calvary. But, here we must see its meaning - the WHY of it, and not where it was or what the material composed the cross. Jesus ended the physical side of man's service when He died in our place. His resurrection proves that the Law was met, head on, and now; taken out of the way (Col 2:14).

Today, our service is not physical; but spiritual. It is a service that honors the finished work of a physical Jesus; and, at the very same time, worships the living Christ in the realm of spirituality. Man is squared-up!

Jim Burks

Pastor

(916)989-0401