

from off the altar. Now this might have been difficult for many in Isaiah's day to understand just what this means. But anyone who has the NT as well as the Old, or anyone who has studied the OT as a whole, not just parts of it, cannot but see how tremendously important the altar is in the OT. How tremendously important are the many types of sacrifices that were made emphasizing not only man's terrible sin, but the fact that there must something be done about it and that only God could do it. Only through something that is represented by these sacrifices, could sin possibly be removed. So here was the live coal which came from the altar representing that which the sacrifices stood for -- the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. And this must touch the lips, this must be applied to the hearts. That is our great function as Christians is to bring the knowledge of God's plan of redemption to those who need it. To bring the story of salvation through Christ, to show how He once for all paid the penalty, and through that we can be saved from the guilt of sin. But we need equally to show Christians how we need to be saved from the power of sin through constantly going back to Calvary, constantly thinking on what Jesus Christ did on the cross for us. How He died the death that we deserve. He bore the penalty that was ours to bear but we could not bear it because we could not possibly pay the penalty of sin. Jesus Christ paid it, and through Him we are freed from the guilt of sin, but not only that we need every day to go back to Calvary and through what Jesus did find our salvation from the power of sin. Find our improvement in sanctification, our rescue from the power that holds us down. We can find it only in Jesus Christ. We must learn to be crucified with Christ. To say as the Apostle did: I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live, yet not I but Jesus Christ lives in me and uses me for His purposes.