

**Introduction**

*Lessons learned regarding the effects of Lake Jackson humidity on a wooden deck...*

**Sin Defiles, but God Will Purify It**

Why is this better called a “purification offering?”

*The different foci of Leviticus 4-5:13 and Leviticus 12-15.*

*4-5:13 – these actions are sinful and need forgiveness and cleansing*

*12-15 – these actions are not sinful and do not need forgiveness, but they still need cleansing*

Inadvertent sin

*Unknown sin*

*Rationalized sin*

*Sins of human weakness*

*Guilt is an objective reality, not a subjective feeling*

Symbolism in the sanctuary

*“The horns represented the powerful force of the entire altar... To put blood on the horns was the most obvious way to purify the entire area in which the altar was centered.” – Allen Ross*

*Blood before the veil*

Making a way

*The purification offering shows us that the sanctuary must not be defiled by human sin.*

*God’s ultimate sanctuary (new heavens, new earth) will also be perfectly purified and holy.*

**Sin Spreads, but God Will Stop It**

The significance of leadership

*This passage is structured around **who** sins*

4:3 – if the anointed priest sins	a bull is required
4:13 – if the whole congregation sins	a bull is required
4:22 – when a leader sins	a male goat is required
4:27 – if anyone of the common people sins	a female goat or lamb

Sin spreads through bad leadership

Sin spreads through lack of awareness

*Implied in the idea of inadvertent sin is the fact that they at some point became aware of it*

Sanctification – a present and ongoing reality

*We are cleansed by Christ*

*We are being cleansed by Christ*

Keep bringing your sin to Jesus

**Questions for Study and Reflection**

1. What does this passage teach us about sin and guilt? Why is guilt more than a feeling?
2. How does sin spread, and what threat is that to your life, the church, the world, and society?
3. How does God stop the spread of sin in your life? What can you do to participate in this?
4. Is this passage hopeful for you? (It should be). How so?