

"And thou shalt put it before the veil that is by the Ark of the Testimony, before the Mercy Seat that is over the Testimony, where I Will Meet with thee. And Aaron Shall Burn Thereon Sweet Incense Every Morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations."
Exodus 30:6-8 KJV



There are times in the meat industry when waste pickup is late or refrigeration goes out, to be surrounded by the bad odors of waste products. Refrigeration keeps most of the odor causing bacterial activity to a minimum for the most part, but there are times when meat coolers can become quite odiferous! Hanging a two foot length of cotton twine over the metal meat rail, lighting it on fire, and then blowing out the flame so the twine would smoke and smolder like incense, would eliminate (somewhat) the bad odors. It is amazing how the individual properties of fire cleanse impurities; the heat, the flame, and the smoke all cleanse and purify with a dominating presence, leaving only evidence of the fire's presence. Ask any arson investigator. *"Our God Is A Consuming Fire."* His Presence Will Obliterate impurity! Some materials give off toxins when burned; some a pleasant fragrance. Incense replaces foul odors with sweetness. The Table of Incense was placed directly in front of the Veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies wherein sat the Ark of The Covenant covered with the Mercy Seat. It symbolizes unceasing prayer. Have you ever noticed that certain folks have a distinct fragrance about their person; a cologne or a perfume, so you know without even looking they are there? Fragrance identifies the spice and prayer is a pleasant fragrance to God. God saves our prayers. God's Word says in the end of days, *"And when he had taken the Book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints."* If you study the temple ordinances you'll discover that sin was remitted by the blood and burning of the sacrifices. The sin of believers was remitted once and for all by the shed Blood of the *"Lamb of God Which Taketh Away the sin of the world,"* and by the fire of the indwelling Holy Spirit of the Living God. Our praises and thanksgiving are the sacrifices of a *"broken and contrite heart"* and our unceasing prayers are *"a perpetual incense before the LORD"* obliterating the vile odor of the *"body of death!"*

The incense sweet of constant prayer,
Bathes Garden's air with perfume rare,
And as I walk in fragrant air,
The Blessed Saviour meets me there! –CGP

Prayer's incense precedes us so we can enter boldly in where Mercy Sits Forever Enthroned on the Throne of Grace! When the *"veil of flesh,"* that separates each believer from the heavenly Mercy Seat, is finally *"rent in twain,"* we shall enter in before the Throne, where the Mercy of Majestic Grace Forever Dwells. Until That Day, keep the sweet incense of prayer, burning perpetually in your heart before the Lord! God's Word Says, *"And there I Will Meet with thee, and I Will Commune with thee from above the Mercy Seat!"* The sweet incense of prayer admits men into Jehovah's Merciful Presence! Why would you choose to be anywhere else?

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV