

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

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ARE YOU WASHED IN THE BLOOD?

By Jim Stauffer

“knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” (1 Peter 1:18–19) It may be difficult for us to grasp the concept of being cleansed by the blood of Christ in our redemption, but this is the metonymy offered by the Holy Spirit as He explains the sacrifice of the Son of God for the sins of man. The cleansing of sin by the offering of the blood of animals was commanded by God under the Law of Moses. The writer of Hebrews reminds of that when he speaks of the crucifixion of Christ. He tells us it is by His blood that He entered heaven for us, cleansed our consciences and mediated the new covenant to which we can regain a relationship with God by way of the forgiveness of sins. **(Heb. 9:11-22).**

But there is no such thing as universal salvation. While some may teach such it simply is not what is revealed in the Bible. The blood of Christ is the agent that purchases our souls in the redemptive process **(Rev. 5:9; Rom. 5:8).**

With this firmly entrenched in our understanding we move on to learn how we then can become washed in the blood of Christ. It is not something we would design. That is cleansing a garment by washing it in blood. The stain of the blood would damage the garment, possibly beyond repair. But God has chosen (as our text says) the *....precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.*” to be the acceptable agent to redeem us from evil, to cleanse us from sin.

How can we come in contact with this cleansing blood? First and foremost for any one to be, *....rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Col. 1:13–14),* one has to recognize his current condition that requires rescue. He must know he is walking in darkness rather than in the light, by the flesh rather than the Spirit **(1 Joh. 1:5,6; Gal. 5:16).**

Then the question becomes what must I do to be forgiven of my sins since this is the explanation of rescue in **Col. 1.**

While the epistles reveal God’s mind on what redemption is, the Book of Acts is where we go to learn what men did to receive redemption.

At the very beginning of the church on the day of Pentecost, recorded in **Acts 2,** we witness a group of people who realize they have crucified the Son of God. What was their response? *...Brethren, what shall we do?* Peter tells them, *Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:37,38)*

In each individual case where sinners were converted to Christ, the act of washing the soul in regeneration was accomplished by baptism **(Joh. 3:3-5; Titus 3:5-7)** In **Chapters 8,9,10 and 16** conversions are recorded and in each case they were baptized into Christ as a result of their faith **(Gal. 3:26,27).**

The complete understanding of the relationship between baptism and cleansing of the soul, that is the forgiveness of sin is found in the following two passages. *“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:3–4)* In this passage two things happen in baptism. We are baptized into the death of Christ and we are then given a *newness of life.* We are then united with Him in death and also in His resurrection. We have been crucified with Him in order to put to death our old man of sin. This is what we accomplish with our baptism **(see vs. 5-7).** This process is explained again by Paul in **Col. 2:12,13,** *“having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the*

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uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions," By baptism we then put to death the old man of sin and are given new life in Him through the forgiveness of sin.

There is no redemption without forgiveness of sin. There is no forgiveness of sin without baptism. And look closely at these two passages and spiritual resurrection is a product of faith, faith that leads one to obey the Lord in baptism. This forgiveness of sins and redemption of the soul of man is the *working of God*, **Col. 2:12**.

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? *"I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* (**Revelation 7:14**)

That Day and This

By Dan S. Shipley

Some say that the day of the Lord has come; mockers say it won't come; and multitudes live as if they didn't expect it. But that great day will come and God wants both scoffer and saint to be reminded of it, as the context of **2 Pet. 3** indicates.

In the first place the scoffers are shown to be wrong in concluding that *"all things continue as they were from the creation"* (**v. 4**). They willfully forget that day in history when God interrupted the routine of a sin-filled world with a great flood. No, all yesterdays are not the same. God wants all men to remember the one that was different and why. Let it be a reminder that all tomorrows will not be the same either. Even now this old world is moving closer to a second and final interruption; the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men (**v. 7**); the day of the Lord.

Something else that men need to be reminded of is that God is not limited to man's concept of time. *"For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night"* (**Psa. 90:4**). Not that God does not recognize the difference in man's days and years, but that the passing of time does not in any way affect His purposes. Gospel preaching rightly stresses the promises of Christ's second coming. Any apparent delay in that coming is not to be construed as slackness, but rather as longsuffering. What appears to some as a divine defect is actually an expression of divine grace! God waits. All the yesterdays plus whatever tomorrows may remain for all man say, "God waits." He waits in our day as He did in the days of Noah (**1 Pet. 3:20**). He waits for men to turn to Him in repentance (**v. 9**) and be saved. God's longsuffering is man's opportunity; redeemed, his salvation.

Accordingly, there is a correlation between the day of the Lord and this day which every man needs to recognize. Knowing of such a day ought to make a

difference in the way I live today. This is exactly Peter's point in **v.11**: *"Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness"*. Continual awareness of that day and its significance should prompt a manner of life befitting prepared people. It would encourage a better attitude toward God and His word, the kind essential to humility. *"Looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God"* revives and perpetuates hope within the Christian; the kind of hope that serves as *"an anchor of the soul"* (**Heb. 6:19**). Those who *"look for these things"* (**v.14**) are characterized by a spirit of diligence in making their calling and election sure (**1:10**), avoiding sin and seeking after peace with both God and man. Finally, *"knowing these things"* (**v. 17**), Christians are warned to be on guard against the influence of the wicked, those unconcerned about the Lord and His return. Beware lest they hinder our preparation for eternity. Then, *"grow in grace and knowledge"*; appropriate every blessing in a way that honors God; learn more of His word, applying it to every circumstance of life today — and thus look for that great day!

Dip, Shiver, Bang! Ahhhh!

Farmers here in Kansas and up to Alberta Canada are quite familiar with winter wheat. It's the kind of wheat you plant in autumn so that it can grow to about 6 inches before the cold and snows of winter hit; it lives through the winter and really takes off in the spring. Now, the winters in Alberta can have temperatures go to 60 below zero but the wheat just shrugs it off and thrives. How? Well, the cold winds of late autumn and the first light frost (Dip & Shiver) flip a physiological trigger in the plant (Bang!) which makes it able to withstand the colder temperatures of later winter (Ahhhhh!)

The same kind of thing happens to people. When we humans try to improve ourselves in any way there comes a time in our growth where there is a pushback. If you are fasting then you know that about day three, after the hunger has subsided, you get what they call the "Keto Flu", a period of time when you feel sick. (Dip and Shiver) If you persevere your body flips a physiological switch (Bang!) and you feel great for as long as you fast (world record – 382 days). That's the Ahhhh!

Spiritually the initial pushback can come from anywhere: Satan, your friends or your own doubts. (The Dip.) You then wonder if you're willing to be different. Is it worth the price? (The Shiver.) The Bang comes when you fully realize that the goal is worth any price you may have to endure and that is what gives you the strength to keep going. All of a sudden the

trials you had been going through seem insignificant. You may even wonder why they bothered you at all. That's the Ahhhh!

Have you seen these in your own spiritual life?

Cleveland Reddinger

Correcting The Evil World

Joe Fitch

It is easy to pick up preaching themes from the world news. There is much that is shocking – and shockingly wrong. We get caught up with evaluating the world – correcting the world – fixing its ills – reforming society. Actually, little needs to be said about the character of the world. It is evil – always has been.

Preaching like the first century? Which apostle preached about corruption in the Roman government? Where is the New Testament's expose of the decadent, cruel, and insane policies of Caesar – or Herod – or Agrippa? Who led a crusade for justice and fairness in the Roman government? Who demanded liberty? Who opposed the oppressive taxes? Christians, small and great, were noticeably absent from all attempts to revamp society or to restructure nations.

There were no sermons defining how to vote – of course, there was no vote. No one even demanded the right to vote. Democracy was not interwoven into first century Christianity. No patriotic sermons. No Christian led revolts against the system because of its evil. They understood being in the world but not of the world (**John 17:14**).

Yet, we feel compelled to fix the world where we live – without any biblical principle or precedent. Quit the nonsense! Abandon the impossible task! You will not change the evil world. What Shall We Do?

Submit as a citizen -- *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities” (Romans 13:1)*. God expects it – even when rulers are far from good. *“For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves” (Rom. 12:1)*.

Rebelling against government may be appealing, but it is not a recommendation to God. You must obey – not only to avoid civil punishment, but also for *“conscience sake” (v.5)*.

Exercise your rights as a citizen. Paul did – occasionally. *“Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?” (Act.27:25)*. *“For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar” (Acts 25:11)*.

Paul was a Roman citizen, but it was not his obsession. He was much more concerned with his heavenly

citizenship. *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,...” (Phil. 3:20)*. As a citizen, seek the protection of law, enjoy liberty, vote as you are allowed. You may even complain a little. It is allowed, but lead no crusade about it.

Work with people. What can you do – effectively? You can often effect change in an evil person. Convict them with the word of God. Show them sin in all its ugliness. Let them see the judge – and the fearful and eternal judgment upon sinners. Repentance – a change of life's direction – may result. For centuries, Christians have been doing that – and dramatically changing lives.

Report the good news of redemption for sinners – even the worst of sinners. Show them the great mercy of the Lord of heaven. Let them envision a new and grand life open before them – with heaven's gates open at the end. This news will be all the more precious after they realize what it means to be lost. For them, be sure to answer the question: *“What must I do to be saved?”* Report the good news of God's power to transform the character of men. Those who were once *“conformed to this world”* -- pressed into the world's mold – can be fully *“transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom.12:2)*. That transformation is exactly what God seeks in man. That transformation demonstrates *“what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”* It is possible to be a new man! – a completely different man! It is possible to be transformed into the very spiritual image of Jesus. *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18)*.

The world is an impossible challenge to correct, reform, or materially influence. Jesus came and went back to heaven; the evil world was little different. Christianity in its height – its most powerful and influential stage – did not change the character of the evil world. And yet from Jesus until now, men have been changed – one by one. Forget reforming the evil world! Do something worthwhile. Be an Andrew; bring a lost soul to Jesus.

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edssermonsandthings.com

“Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.””
(John 18:36)

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

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Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

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WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS: THE BOOK OF JOB - JIM STAUFFER TEACHER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON: ANCIENT CURES FOR CURRENT ILLS



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10