

The Double Washings of God!



Living in this present world, we face a continuing barrage of bad news. *'If it's not one thing, it's another,'* we often conclude with a sigh. So, when 'good news' comes along we are thoroughly refreshed to receive it!

The same is true with spiritual and eternal things! The bad news of our 'fallen state and overpowering nature of sin' is constantly staring us in the face and beating us down. But if we receive *'The Good News,'* it overshadows the 'bad stuff' and brings us great joy and ultimate victory! There are two competing realities we can choose from:

- the debilitating **Bad News** that surrounds and torments us *from within and without*; and
- the liberating **Good News** that the Lord *personally* hand-delivered, *from above*, to set us eternally free!

Let's Review the Bad News

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"

Romans 3:23

"There is none righteous, no not one: There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable: there is none that does good, no, not one....the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Romans 3:11-12 , 17-18

This last quote is originally found in Psalm 14. The Apostle Paul uses it to expose the unrighteous condition of all people—including you and me! This is done so that No One (Jew or Gentile) can justify themselves before God based on their own righteousness. The bottom line: ***Absolutely no one seeks after the True & Living God or attempts to understand spiritual truth on their own accord!*** At best, people (across all faiths and denominations) are satisfying themselves with pseudo-religious activities to cloak and cover the reality that human beings are extremely far from God's standards of righteousness.

Being “religious” simply does not cut it with a Holy God who made us in His image and likeness. God’s requirements are diametrically opposed to our external efforts. ‘Acts of faith’ ultimately have no eternal value because they do not come from a ‘clean heart’ that seeks to glorify God. Because we are so very **SINFUL** by nature, we must be washed from **DEEP WITHIN BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD!**

Let’s Rejoice in the Good News!

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to ALL men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Titus 2:11-14

The Good News is that God has devised a perfect plan for saving us from the corrupt nature of sin that indwells each of us. Jesus Christ, our Lord & Savior sacrificed Himself to ‘pull us out of eternal destruction. In chapter three, Brother Titus reminds us of our former state before we received ‘The Good News of Christ,’ lest we forget where God brought us from. *For ‘we ourselves’ also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.” (Titus 3:3)*

See, it was **only after** the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared and was extended toward us (along with All men) that we were changed and set apart for Kingdom use. This Divine Intervention was done:

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life!”

The First Washing: Salvation by Water & the Spirit

If we are ever going to be delivered from our old, sinful nature (as described in Romans 1– 3) we must be willing to undergo Self-death and be born of the water and the Spirit. Jesus told a Jewish ruler named Nicodemus, “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:5-6). Flesh cannot be made spirit. They are contrary the one to the other. A person must experience a spiritual rebirth to be of any value to a Holy God.

This verse, “*born of water and the Spirit*” could be translated, “born of water, even the Spirit.” Water has a two-fold meaning in the Bible. It is a symbol for the Holy Spirit and it is a symbol for the Word of God (as we’ll see later).

What is the New Birth? It is the process by which we are made partakers of God’s Divine Nature! As the Spirit of God “moved upon the face of the waters” in creation bringing that which was “without form, and void” into the transforming Light & Life of God’s Presence; even so the Spirit alone moves into the ‘deep dark nature of man’ to recreate man’s degenerate nature into a regenerated nature that can stand justified before God and be pleasing to Him.

This is the Washing of Regeneration and Renewing of the Holy Ghost' that Titus talks about! We are not saved merely by changing our direction and making a personal decision to follow Jesus. We must be supernaturally washed, cleaned, then filled with the Spirit of God. As Oswald Chambers writes in My Utmost for His Highest, "Salvation is God's thought, not man's therefore it is an unfathomable abyss. Salvation is the great thought of God, not an experience. Experience is only a gateway by which salvation comes into our conscious life."

This is a work of the Holy Spirit on the **INSIDE** of men, women and children who respond wholeheartedly to God's summons! What wondrously Good News this is for All mankind...the descendants of Adam, finally reborn as the sons of God! This our Creator's great plan of escape and rescue. Now, the question becomes: Have been through the first wash cycle?

[The Second & Continuous Washing: Sanctification by the Water of the Word](#)

In explaining the affections of a husband toward his wife, the Apostle Paul shares an even greater revelation of the love of Christ for His Church (aka His Bride). Consider his insights:

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it: that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD, that He might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or blemish or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:25-27

The Lord Jesus is the 'Christ'—the "Anointed One" who destroys burdens and breaks yokes. He defeated all sin on the Cross by 'shedding His own blood.' He is our 'Knight In Shining Armor' because He showed up for battle in the flesh, as The Unfailing Word of God! He alone sanctifies (set us apart for a sacred use and holy purpose) and cleanses (wash us with internal pure water by the Spirit & the Word) as we surrender all to 'know' Him. The word know speaks of (being intimately made one with another). Many scholars use the Greek word 'ekklesia' to define the church as "the called out ones." This is true, but it lacks a fuller and more applied understanding. Bible research by Phil LaSpino our former Board President suggest that the Greek word, "kuriakon" better describes the Church, as "that which belongs to and is appropriated for the Lord."

Does the marvel of the Divine and human interfacing in a love relationship intrigue you? It happens by the ingesting (taking in) and applying (working out) of God's Word in our lives! Once a new nature is birthed into us by the Holy Spirit, we must desire the 'sincere milk of the word' to grow up spiritually healthy and strong in the Lord (1 Peter 2:2).

The water of the Word (through preaching and study) comes upon us and flows through us to conform our minds and our bodies to that which has already taken place in our spirit. The question that remains is: Can you endure continuous washings in the water of the Word? Only by this process are we sanctified and spiritually adorned for our Lord's return. He alone does the work of removing all spots, wrinkles and blemishes! This is such Good News! Let us, therefore, submit to the powerful washings & perfecting waters of a Holy & Loving God.