

The Washing Away of Sins

Acts 22:12-16

The Need for Cleansing

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- Sin soils or defiles a person.
 - Jesus said, “*What comes out of a man, that **defiles a man**. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. **All these evil things come from within and defile a man.**”*
Mark 7:20-23

The Need for Cleansing

- Sin soils or defiles a person.
 - Paul wrote, “*To the pure all things are pure, but to those **who are defiled** and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.” **Titus 1:15***

The Need for Cleansing

- Sin soils or defiles a person.
 - Consider David who prayed to the Lord to cleanse him from his sin. ***Psalm 51:1-7***
 - Isaiah instructed Judah to “make yourselves clean.” ***Isaiah 1:16-20***

The Need for Cleansing

- In order for us to walk in fellowship with God, we too must be cleansed. Our sins must be washed away.

In this lesson, we will consider what is involved in the washing away of sins.

Washing Away of Sin Involves...

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- Acknowledging one's sins.
 - King David's repentance began when he acknowledged his guilt of sin. ***2 Samuel 12:7-13; Cf. Psalm 51:3***
 - Saul realized he was lost in sin.
 - Jesus revealed Saul's sin. ***Acts 22:6-8***
 - Jesus told Saul to go to Damascus. ***Acts 22:10***
 - Ananias told Saul to "arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins..." ***Acts 22:16***

Washing Away of Sins Involves...

- Repentance.
 - John the baptizer (Matt 3:1-11) and Jesus (Mark 1:14) both taught repentance.
 - The apostles preached repentance.
Luke 24:47; Acts 2:16-21, 36-39
 - *True repentance brings a change of mind, a change of heart, and change of life.*

Washing Away of Sins Involves...

- Baptism.
 - Ananias told Paul to arise and be baptized, washing away Paul's sins. **Acts 22:16**
 - On the day of Pentecost, Peter told the people to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins. **Acts 2:38**
 - Peter would later explain that baptism is an answer of a good conscience towards God. **1 Peter 3:21**

Washing Away of Sins Involves...

- Obeying from the “heart” the doctrine of Christ. ***Romans 6:17-18***
 - Obedience from the “heart” begins with believing that Jesus is the Son of God.
 - This conviction leads to a realization of the guilt of sin and the need to turn away.
 - Baptism follows conviction and repentance, resulting in forgiveness, the washing away of sins.

Conclusion

- The apostle Paul wrote, “...*But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*” **1 Corinthians 6:11**

Conclusion

- The Hebrew writer wrote, “...*let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*” **Hebrews 10:22-23**

Conclusion

- If you are not a Christian, then repent of your sins and be baptized into Jesus Christ, calling on the name of the Lord. ***Acts 22:16; cf. Romans 6:3-4***
- If you are a Christian, then continue to “*draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.*” ***Hebrews 10:22***