

Why I Never Wash #2

Introduction. In 2 Corinthians 11:1, Paul asks the Corinthians to bear with him for the purpose of folly. We are going to continue a bit of the folly that began with our last lesson. We are going to look at six more foolish reasons why someone might refuse to wash and compare them to the same foolish reasons why someone would neglect service to God.

We want to help someone who is deciding to become a Christian, or Christians who confront these excuses when they try to teach the gospel. In Revelation 7:13-17, those who faithfully withstood persecution were before the throne of God, serving Him day and night. We want everyone to have the same type of devotion which will result in our being before God in eternity. In order to accomplish this task, we must learn how to deal with this varied excuses.

I. ***"Who Decides Who Is Dirty And Clean?"***

- A. God stated that there is no one righteous apart from His saving grace (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:9-12). No one on this earth has the ability to judge any other person as to their eternal destiny. That is God's job alone (Romans 2:16).
- B. The words of Christ will judge us at the end of time (John 12:47-48). But everyone has the competence to study the scriptures and determine if they are saved (Ephesians 1:13-14; 3:3-5). The wisdom of this age would have us be satisfied as long as we are better than most people. Human beings by nature are morally very relativistic, but God will judge according to His true standard, the Bible.

II. ***"You Are Hateful And Unloving When You Tell Me I Am Dirty"***

- A. Not true. Was Abraham hateful and unloving when he offered up Isaac (Genesis 22:9-12; Hebrews 11:17)? Was God hateful and unloving when He offered up His only begotten Son (John 3:16)? Likewise, the Christian is not hateful and unloving when he tries to save a soul (Jude 21-23). In fact, we are imitating the example of Christ (Luke 19:10).
- B. There will likely be a momentary sting when the truth pricks the heart (Acts 2:37), but it should always be done for the noble reason of getting that person to obey God. The sinner has been in the company of their greatest friend when that person tells them all "the words of this life" and "words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved" (Acts 5:20; 11:14).

III. ***"It Does Not Matter If I Am Clean Or Dirty"***

- A. Romans 14 has been one of the most misused chapters in the New Testament. Some go to vss. 1, 3 and determine that others ought to

receive them and not judge them. Or they go to vs. 5 and state that each one may decide for himself, or they may go to vss. 14, 20 and say that even dirty people are pure and clean.

- B. This chapter was written to address matters which were neither right nor wrong in the sight of God. It was not written to command blanket acceptance of everyone no matter what their standing before God. If someone has not obeyed the gospel and become a Christian according to the New Testament, we are not to have fellowship with them (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

IV. ***"There Are So Many Kinds Of Soap, I Cannot Decide Which Is Right"***

- A. This may be a very legitimate problem with many people. However, the scriptures again provide the solution. The Lord said He would build only one church (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:9; Hebrews 3:6). Paul stated that there is only one body or church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23).
- B. If people will look into the Bible and study about the nature, work, worship, doctrines, and organization of the church, it will become clearly evident that the vast majority of churches do not follow this New Testament pattern (Hebrews 8:1-5). If they do not follow the pattern, they cannot be New Testament churches.
- C. Never is there any provision for multiple churches in the Bible. The evidence is there for any one to make the right decision. Although much confusion exists because of so many churches, the truth is still just as easy to see now as it was when it was written.

V. ***"I Still Wash At Christmas And Easter"***

- A. It is sad and unfortunate that the two times of the year that people want to worship are times that have been invented by man and not by God. No one knows the time of the year of the Lord's birth or His resurrection. We can perhaps get close, but we cannot know for sure. But the important point is that we do not have to know (Matthew 15:9)!
- B. The only specific time mentioned in the New Testament when Christians assembled to worship was on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). This was the day Christ arose from the dead. If we go beyond this, we are sinning presumptuously (Numbers 22:18; 1 Kings 22:14) and elevating the silence of God to the position of absolute authority (Acts 15:24; Hebrews 7:14).

VI. ***"I Am Still Young; When I Get Older, I Will Wash"***

- A. This objection is based upon a very dangerous presupposition. It assumes that everyone is guaranteed the same lifespan (Psalm 90:10; 1 Chronicles 29:15). The danger lies in the fact that none of us knows when the end of our lives will occur (Psalm 103:14-16). It might be that this very night your soul will be demanded of you (Luke 12:20).
- B. Do you think that Abel knew it would be his last day on the earth when he awoke that fateful morning (Genesis 4:8)? What about Achan (Joshua 7:25)? What about Uzzah (2 Samuel 6:7)? What about Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:5, 10)? What about you? You had better remember your Creator in the days of your youth (Ecclesiastes 12:1). If not, you may not have any inclination to obey God later in your life.

Conclusion. Would you be free from your burden of sin? Would you be washed in the blood of the Lamb? No excuses will do (2 Corinthians 5:10)! There is simply no good reason to let that fate befall you. Obey before it is too late.

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