



Cleansing The Stain

Tim Canup

The fact is that sin is what separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). Sin leaves a stain on our soul and we “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). With sin in our life, we are lost spiritually and in need of salvation. Our only hope of salvation comes from the cleansing of that stain of sin according to God’s will, which has been revealed in His Word. We do not have the capability, within our means, to rid ourselves of the stain of sin! Therefore, we must humbly submit to God’s Will in order to obtain the cleansing from the stain of sin.

How does this cleansing happen? First, we must understand that for us to know God’s Will for us, in any matter, we must turn to His Word—The Bible (I Corinthians 2:10-12). In His Word, God has revealed a plan for the cleansing of our sins, which had the highest cost ever known to man—the blood of His Son. In Revelation 1:5, speaking of Jesus Christ, John wrote near the end of the verse, “...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.” The question now is, “How do we contact that blood?”

Again, to answer, we must turn to God’s Word. Paul wrote in Romans 6:3-4, “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” It was in His death that Jesus shed His blood (John 19:34). Paul said that when we submit to God’s command to be baptized (immersed into water – Mark 16:16), we are baptized into His death. It is in baptism that we contact the blood of Christ.

Now, just in case someone may misunderstand, we are not saying (neither does the Bible teach) that it is the water that takes away the sin. However, God included water in the

command—as He did in other commands (for example the cleaning of the blind man in John 9). It is the blood of Christ that cleanses. When we, by our faith, obey God’s command, which includes being baptized, we contact that blood and are therefore cleansed. The blood must be applied!

An example of this is washing a stain from a shirt. We put that shirt into the water, but we understand that the water alone cannot take away the stain; we must add a cleansing agent. In this case we add a detergent, which will take away the stain. We could wash that stained shirt in water alone, and it will not come clean, the detergent must be applied. This is what Jesus was trying to get Nicodemus to see in John 3, when He said, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (verse 5).

If you would like to know more about what to do to become a Christian, or if you would like to enroll in a correspondence course by mail (no cost or obligation to you), please return this coupon to: Back To The Bible; 221 Barnett Street; West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit our website @ www.wjchurchofchrist.org.

- ☐ Yes, I am interested in a correspondence course by mail.
- ☐ Yes, I am interested in an in-home Bible study.
- ☐ Yes, I would like a free copy of the *Searching For Truth* DVD

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () - _____