

#### IV. If you have been restrained from much of this--good, but remember:

"Sin is often restrained only by circumstances, and yet it is in the heart. We ought not to take credit to ourselves because of our apparent freedom from evils into which we had practically no chance of falling." Spurgeon

#### To what do you owe your present condition?

Titus 3:4 Marvelous grace and pity of our loving Lord. Sovereign grace and infinite mercy.

Titus 3:5 Note the wonderful washing! The Spirit renews our minds, thoughts, desires.

Is it happening? Why the alarming sentence of Matthew for sins of omission 25:41-46? UNWASHED THAT IS WHY

Conclusion: never forget how terrible it is to be unwashed.

Don't forget how the unwashed sinner looks to the Holy God, as well as the good angels.

Remember that holiness and compassion are agreeable necessary attributes. Revelation 22:17

## Spiritual Washing: Leviticus 15

"Spiritually this is one of the richest books in the Bible, and to know it...is a bountiful education in divinity" Graham Scroggie

Getting the contextual lens: 10:1-3, 16:1,2 Nadab and Abihu; these references form a bracket, a literary device ("inclusio" is the technical term). Everything in the bracket is closely connected in content, theme, emphasis--everything in the bracket is about one thing: the desperate need of the washing of regeneration. Compare Matthew 5:3—5:10: Who is in the Kingdom and how would we recognize them?

Chapter 11 is about the obligation of detailed obedience.

Chapter 12 is about original sin.

Chapter 13,14 is about leprosy; the clearest picture of sin *as seen by God*--disfiguring, separating, horrifying.

Chapter 15 is about **race pollution**, and the absolute necessity of **spiritual washing for the polluted race.**

The book of Leviticus does not chronologically advance the history of the Israelites, but it does GREATLY INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THEMSELVES AS SINNERS IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY" G. Scroggie "No person is prepared for the message of redemption if he has no sense of need." F. Sells

READ Leviticus 15: 1-7,19-21,25

Vs. 2-18 deal with men, 19-30 deal with women. Some issues are normal, some are abnormal. In all cases it was required of the person affected, in addition to washing--bring a offering to be offered by a priest.

"issue" is mentioned 24 times in this chapter, only about 40 in the whole Bible.

"bathe" is mentioned 15 times in this chapter, only 18 in the whole Bible.

"wash" is mentioned 11 times in this chapter.

"water" is mentioned 15 times in this chapter.

**I. Physical matters, hygiene etc., are a point, but not the primary point: 15:32,33.**

**Race pollution is the point.** This law has direct relation to the reproductive organization in mankind, the parts of men and women that have to do with the propagation of the human race.

"It is impossible now to miss the spiritual meaning of these laws concerning issues of this class. In these alone, out of many others, which from a purely physical point of view are equally offensive...these were taken...to symbolically emphasize *that the fountain of life in man is defiled*" Samuel Kellogg p.308

"...as God looks at the matter, sin pertains **not only to action, but also to being**. Not only actions, from which we can abstain, but *operations of nature which we cannot help*, alike defile; defile in such a manner and degree as to require, even as voluntary acts of sin, the cleansing of water, and the expiatory blood of a sin-offering..."

**Remember that God is giving this law.** It is God's testimony as to how He sees man in his natural condition and why man needs merciful redemption (don't forget 10:1-3 & 16:1,2). To be a sinner is bad enough, if it only involved the voluntary and habitual practice of sin. But this law of issues testifies to us, even now, that, as God sees man's case, it is far worse than this. The deepest springs of man's being is defiled. **Sin in man "is so deep it cannot be deeper".**

**All that any son of Adam can now do is beget a son in his own physical and moral image, an heir of death, and by nature unclean and unholy.**

What God repeats we must not ignore. So what does the repetition of "bathe himself in water" mean ?

The washing of water is the uniform symbol of the cleansing of the soul from corruption by the power of the Holy Spirit. How important is it for you to be born of the Spirit? How important is it for you to be renewed by the Holy Spirit daily?

**II. To get the point, begin with the images as you see them: 15:3 ff**

Imagine people with these sorts of issues, discharges *who did not bathe for years, or even a lifetime*. The reeking, repulsive stench would be unbearable, wouldn't it?

Leviticus doesn't advance the chronology of the Jewish nation, but it greatly increases their knowledge of themselves as sinners in need of God's mercy. **TOO BAD MOST OF THEM MISSED IT:** Romans 10:3! Have we missed it? Can we check ourselves, Titus 3:2 ff?

**III. TITUS 3:2--We should not speak evil of men [rail against them]---WHY NOT?**

3:3a "For" what were we? Maybe you have forgotten? Here is a three-part description of an unwashed mind.

" \_\_\_\_\_ " wiser than God, ignored commands, promises, and warnings. Viewed sins as profitable and desirable.

" \_\_\_\_\_ " we have turned everyone to his own way, like wandering sheep sometimes and as little proud pharaohs at other times.

" \_\_\_\_\_ " following fools, fads, and vain people, but not the good shepherd.

3:3b Consider further the *issues that flow from such a mind*:

"Serving diverse lusts and \_\_\_\_\_" Lusts means desires, longings, ambitions. What would this specifically mean? Sloth? impure exploits? popularity?

3:3c Here are more issues, more things that flow out of an unwashed life: "Living in malice, envy, hateful and hating etc. "The very spirit of the devil, the very atmosphere of hell" said A. B. Simpson.

