

The Spartan Sower

The sower soweth the word... Mark 4:14



March 26, 2006 (Vol. 6)

THE POWER OF SOAP

Soap is a cleansing agent. It is used pretty much everywhere in the world in order to remove filthy, dirt and grim. Mothers can testify to the need for a cleansing agent for those especially difficult stains and smudges that will just not go away. Those who work on cars sometimes use special bars of soap (a gritty green bar called LAVA as I recall what my dad used) that is specifically designed for grease. All these stains are physical, and thus require a physical means of removal. And doctors also know the power of soaps to remove germs and prevent the spread of infection. But with all this, we have stains that cannot be affected by physical cleansing agents - spiritual stains left by the contaminant of sin.

I can remember when I was young having said something of which my mother was not well pleased. As we have all heard the proverbial warning, "I'll wash your mouth out with soap!" That is exactly what happened, much to my unhappiness at the moment. My mean ol' mother even made me bite down on the soap for good measure. So, I can personally attest to the effectiveness of soap in helping me "clean up" my language. I was mighty careful of what I said after that.

That was a lesson much needed at the time and effectively delivered. BUT, have you considered that while it was helpful in preventing further filth coming from the mouth, it did not remove the sins committed already? Soap's power, while effective, could not take away the guilt of transgressing God's will.

In Revelation 1:5, John writes to churches of the Lord and says that Christ "washed us from our sins in his own blood". A spiritual problem requires a spiritual solution. The suffering of the Savior is that remedy. By His death he has arranged a solution to our most persistent and terrible of

problems -sin. And, in many ways, it works like any other soap.

The best soap on earth will be of no benefit to anyone, unless it is used. If doctors do not wash their hands, then they are as likely to spread disease and infection as to help someone. If mothers do not use soap in washing laundry, then stains may well be made permanent (I've learned this by trying to wash clothes myself!). And what mechanic will go straight from his shop to the dinner table without using soap? We all see the importance of APPLYING the remedy.

The Bible teaches that we must take up the remedy that God has supplied. Acts 16:29-34 tells us that being "saved" involves believing the word of the Lord, a willingness to change previous behavior (the Jailor washed the stripes of those who were beaten), and was baptized immediately. It is after this that the text says the Jailer "rejoiced greatly... having believed in God." Many teach different things about how to contact the blood of Christ, but note this: The best guide to a cleansing agent's application is the manufacturer's instructions! And so we have gone NOT to men's ideas, but to God's word on how to be saved.

Also, many people have the concept that once the blood is applied, then you can never again become filthy and stained. This is NOT true regarding physical dirt, nor is it true regarding spiritual spots and stains. Hear the word of God on the matter:

"Therefore, **brethren**, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as **are** led by the Spirit of God, they **are** the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that **we are the children of God**:" (Rom. 8:12-16).

This is written to brethren and "children of God." There is no doubt these are saved people. Yet he warns them of the possibility of losing the life they have gained. "If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die". If a child of God returns to the mire and muck of sin - the will forfeit spiritual life. Now, what can one who is a child of God do when they stumble in sin and are defiled again?

Again, writing to saved people who are children and brethren, John writes: "If we confess our sins, he

is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1:9). A Christian who errs is to "confess" - admit with God - that he has sinned. And in so doing, God says He will cleans us. Verse 7 says, "If we walk in the light... the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." It is **CONDITIONAL** cleansing to start with and to continue with. Just as in the physical world we need to apply soap again when we get dirty again - so it is spiritually.

So, have you applied the remedy?

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Debate Practice** - Thursday, March 16th & 23rd @ 6:30pm at the bldg.
- **Debate on Security of Believer** - Sparta Civic Center on March 24-25, 2006.
- **Business Meeting** – Sun. March 26 @ 5pm.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Ron Daly, April 2-7, 2006.
- **Home Bible Study** – Sat., April 1, 15, 29.
- **Men’s & Ladies Classes** - Tues., April 11th @ 7 pm.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Ron Roberts, Oct.15-20, 2006.

PRAY FOR

Mag Bumbalough, Greg Capps, Sabrina Capps, Thelma Cunningham, Donald Eller, Holly Jernigan (Joyce Gardner’s niece has cancer), **John Ross Key** (Mary Cox’s son), **Marci Miller** (Alisa Fletcher’s mother), **Monie Petty, Dave Poteet, Rose Taylor, Dorris Williams, Ruth Williams** (Betty England’s niece), **Jillian Francis** (Terry Francis' daughter, preacher at Hillview), **Wanda Frazier; Robert England** (Procedure on back March 30th), **Joyce Gardner.**

Those in Iraq: Jason Zelenak (Alisa Fletcher’s brother), **Cary Matheny.**

We Invite You To All Our Services!

Sunday Bible Study	9 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7 pm

North Sparta church of Christ

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 Here*

Speaking As The Oracles Of God (1 Pet. 4:11)