

"The Salvation Which is in Christ Jesus"

(2 Timothy 2:10)

Lesson Nine: False Doctrines about Salvation – Continuous Cleansing (4)

Introduction. While some have recognized the possibility that one who has obeyed the gospel can turn away from the truth and be lost, some have still argued that the forgiveness of the Lord is automatically bestowed on His disciples, regardless of repentance, prayer, or faithfulness to the word of the gospel.

I. How Jesus Cleanses From Sin — 1 John 1:5-10.

A. Read 1 John 1:5-10. This doctrine often appeals to the teaching of 1 John 1:7 that promises that Christ's blood "cleanses us from all sin." Under what condition does this text promise this cleansing? _____
_____

1. What does this mean? _____
_____
2. With what is this contrasted in 1 John 1:6? _____
_____

B. Some would argue that walking in the light is simply a disposition and not specific behavior. Does 1 John 2:3-5 tell us anything about this view? _____
_____

1. Under what condition does 1 John 1:9 promise forgiveness? _____
_____

C. Both this passage and 1 John 1:7 promise cleansing. Are these passages talking about different ways of being cleansed or are they two ways of describing the same thing? _____
_____

1. Is confession of sin to God a part of walking in the light? _____
2. Read Acts 8:20-24. Once again, we consider the rebuke given to Simon the sorcerer. What two things did Peter tell him he needed to do in order to receive forgiveness? 1) _____ 2) _____
3. Why wasn't Simon automatically forgiven if cleansing is continuous?
_____

D. Read 2 Peter 1:5-9. This passage speaks of disciples being cleansed from sins. What sins are specifically mentioned? _____

1. Does any Scripture ever promise forgiveness of future sins? _____
   _____
2. Read Ephesians 5:25-27. By what does Paul say that Christ cleanses His bride—the church? _____
3. How does this thing cleanse the Christian? (cf. 1 John 2:3-5).____
   _____

II. The High Priesthood of Christ.

A. The false doctrine of continual cleansing makes much of Christ's sacrifice for sin, but it places much less stress on His Priesthood. We must consider why Jesus must fill this role if cleansing is automatic and continuous.

1. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What does this text teach that Jesus is for Christians?
   _____
2. What does this text teach we must do to "obtain mercy"? _____
   _____

B. Read Hebrews 7:24-25. What does this passage teach that Christ does for those who "come to God through Him"? _____
_____

1. Can sin be forgiven if one does not come to God "through Him"? _____

C. Read Romans 8:33-34. How does this passage describe Jesus' ongoing work on behalf of Christians? _____
_____

1. If cleansing of sins is automatic why does Jesus need to continue to serve in this capacity? _____
   _____

D. Read 1 John 2:1-2. How does this passage describe Jesus' work on behalf of Christians? _____

1. Explain the work of one who serves another in this capacity? _____
   _____
   _____
2. Is this work automatic or continuous? _____
   _____
   _____

Conclusion. The motive for this false doctrine may well come from the fear that we will never be flawless, or the fear that we might be ignorant of some wrong we may have committed. We can acknowledge that all salvation comes only by the mercy of God in the face of man's shortcomings, but we must never excuse sinful behavior of dismiss our personal responsibility to do all that God has commanded. Even when we have done this, we are still unworthy of the mercy and forgiveness we are granted in Christ (cf. Luke 17:5-10).