

FROM COVERING TO CLEANSING (Part 2)

Hebrews 10:26–27

²⁶ For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

Understand, when the Bible says, “there remains **NO MORE SACRIFICE** for sins,” it DOESN’T mean, “there’s **NO MORE FORGIVENESS** for such sins.” You can still receive forgiveness even if after you commit willful disobedience.

2 Samuel 12:13–14

¹³ And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. ¹⁴ Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

Although David was guilty of willful disobedience, God still forgave him. However, God DID NOT absolve David from punishment! Why doesn’t God absolve us from *all* punishment even after He forgives us? The reason He doesn’t is because if He did we wouldn’t learn righteousness.

Isaiah 26:10

¹⁰ Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: In the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, And will not behold the majesty of the Lord.

So, if you don’t fully escape punishment, even after you are forgiven, it doesn’t mean God is still made at us. It means that He’s trying to *teach* us righteousness.

This also teaches us that forgiveness is not necessarily about **removing consequences**. Instead, it’s more about **restoring fellowship**.

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

According to this verse, confession brings forgiveness, and forgiveness brings cleansing. Why do we need cleansing? Because cleansing brings fellowship!

Psalms 24:3–4

³ Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴ He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; Who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, Nor sworn deceitfully.

James 4:8

⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Surprisingly, confession is not the ONLY way to obtain cleansing.

1 John 1:7

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Notice, “walking in the light” also brings cleansing. However, this reveals another problem. The more we walk in the *light*, the less covering we have available to us.

Remember, [Hebrews 10:26](#) tells us that once we receive knowledge of the truth “there’s no more sacrifice (or covering) for sin.” So, the more light we receive, the more we need **cleansing**, rather than a **covering**, for our sin.

Now, someone might say, “That’s what repentance is for.” The problem is, if we keep turning to repentance as a remedy for sin, it quickly becomes repetitive.

Romans 7:22–24

²² For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Notice, no one wants to live in a vicious cycle of constantly having to repent of the SAME sins. But, this is the experience of many Christians. How can we fix this?

The way to fix it is to, first of all, understand that cleansing is not intended to solve our sin problem completely. In other words, being cleansed won’t stop you from sinning. Instead, what it’s intended to do is bring you to God.

Most people confuse cleansing **OURSELVES** of sin with cleansing **OUR FLESH** of sin. But, you can’t cleanse the flesh of sin.

Romans 7:18

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing...

Even Jesus’ flesh contained sin.

Romans 8:3

³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

The Catholics believe in the immaculate conception. Meaning, they believe that the flesh of Mary (the mother of Jesus) was sinless. Therefore, Jesus' flesh was also sinless. But, this is a misunderstanding of sin. The presence of sin doesn't make you a sinner. Obeying sin (committing it) makes you a sinner!

1 Peter 2:22

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

The point is, cleansing is not for the body (flesh). It's for the soul.

Now, we still need to know how to overcome sin our bodies. (If we don't, it will keep bringing us into bondage.)

Romans 6:6–7

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

If we want to be “free” from sin, then we must stop looking for a **SUBSTITUTE** (i.e. Jesus died *for* me) and start being to be a **PARTICIPANT** (I died *with* Him).

Romans 6:5 New International Version

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

So, it's not just DEATH that we are to be “united” (participate) with Him, but it's also in RESURRECTION that we're to be “united” (participate) with Him. Now, when Paul talks about being united with Him in a resurrection ***like His***, he's not just talking about participating in a **PHYSICAL** resurrection like His. He's also talking about participating a **SPIRITUAL** resurrection like His!

Romans 8:11

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Quickening your “mortal” body isn't the same as quickening an *immortal* body. Thus, Paul is not talking about rising from the dead. He's actually talking about being “raised” (filled) by the Spirit to walk free from sin!

Romans 8:12–13

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 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.

There are many in the body of Christ who are trusting in the blood for a covering, but they are not trusting in the blood for cleansing. If you try to do this too long (i.e. after you receive knowledge of the truth), you will find yourself under judgment (punishment). In other words, God will no longer “overlook” your sin. Instead, He will require you to “overcome” them. The way we overcome sin, is by participating in Christ’s death and in His resurrection.