



SNOW DEVOTIONAL

ISAIAH 1:18

“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

EXPERIENCE

It truly is one of the most breathtaking realities on this earth! A blanket of pure white snow glistening on the ground, even as fresh flakes continue to fall from the sky. Each snow crystal whimsically floating here and there with the breeze until it lands in its ordained place among the multitude of other snowflakes. Lovely, delicate, and unique — every crystal individually beautiful, yet even more astounding in their corporate beauty. Together, they create a winter wonderland of decorated trees, bushes, streets, and homes. Even the ugliest gray roads are transformed into paths of white.

CONTEMPLATION

Snow speaks! It speaks as its pure whiteness covers not only ugly roads but decaying leaves, dead grass, empty tree limbs, dead branches, and

all the other unpleasant winter reminders of death. There is seemingly nothing whiter or purer than snow. My two boys commented to a neighbor about how their white dog, “sure looked dirty”, in comparison to the snow. Though Christ died to cleanse us once and for all from the ugly stain of sin, a fresh covering of pure white snow calls to mind our daily need to repent and receive again the truth of purifying grace found in the covering of Christ’s blood. Snow, therefore, reminds us to repent. It also shouts an assurance to us of pardon. In Christ, we have been washed as white as snow. However, snow becomes dirty all too quickly, and we yearn for a fresh coat of white. Amidst my failures standing against temptation, I often yearn for a fresh application of snow upon my life. Amidst forgetting all that Christ is for me, I need to hear again and again the message that snow speaks. In what ways do you need a fresh reminder today of what Christ accomplished through his shed blood?

PRAYER

Lord God, thank you for the powerful sermon spoken through snow. I recognize the scarlet stain of sin upon my life. I confess my sins to you. I acknowledge again my need of cleansing from the crimson red spoken of by Isaiah 1:18. With David, I cry: “Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” (Psalm 51:7). What glorious grace that, in Christ, you have washed me white as snow. O Lord, let that truth of cleansing and purity seep into my heart, that I might live in light of it today. In Christ’s name. Amen.

CONFIRMATION

The prophet Isaiah begins his book with the image of snow. In Israel, snow is rare. However, the Judean mountains around Jerusalem see

snow occasionally. If you were to ask Isaiah what snow called to mind, he would likely mention its color. Snow's whiteness is an emblem of purity. In Isaiah 1:18, the prophet records God's intentions to purify the people from their sin. We know that God's plan to wash his children always centered on the cross of Christ Jesus. Jesus, the perfectly pure and woolly white sacrificial lamb, came to die and atone for sin. Isaiah alludes to the impossible task of restoring a crimson stained piece of wool fabric—similarly, it is humanly impossible for our sin-stained lives to become white as snow. Yet, that is exactly what Christ achieved. What is impossible with man is possible with God. May pure white snow ever remind believers of Christ's accomplishment through his death and resurrection! May it prompt us to repent and rest in Christ's cleansing work.

- Snow is an emblem of purity, specifically the purity found in Christ's atoning work on the cross.
- Isaiah uses the emblem of snow one more time in his book (see Isaiah 55:10-11). Check it out to learn another way that snow speaks.



Charles Spurgeon

From Sermon #2354 "Scarlet Sinners Pardoned and Purified".

"O ye scarlet sinners, the greatness of your guilt need not keep you back from God! O you who have transgressed beyond all bearing, and past all bounds, you may yet be forgiven! God is able to blot all your sin out

in a moment, so that there shall be nothing in His Book against you,

and the scarlet shall become as white as snow. Do you want to know how this can be done? It is through the great atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, His Son, who, on Calvary's mountain, bore the wrath of God in our place and stead, that God might be able with justice to forgive the sins of all men who trust in Christ's atonement.

Understand then, that is the method of making scarlet sinners as white as snow, the bleeding Savior, and He alone, performs this miracle of mercy. This is true, and if you will come, and seek your God, confessing your sin, accepting the great sacrifice of Christ, your scarlet sin shall cease to be and you shall become as white as snow."¹

¹ <https://www.spurgeongems.org/sermon/chs2354.pdf>