

## THE WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD

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1. In the Old Testament there were **two things used to cleanse** the people of God from sin. Both are mentioned in *Heb 9:19* and they are:-
  - a. the blood of calves and goats
  - b. the water of purification (water, scarlet wool, hyssop).
  
2. **In the Old Testament itself**
  - a. **the blood that cleanses** from sin is mentioned in *Ex 24:5-8, Lev 16:11-16, Lev 4:1-12*, and other places.
  - b. **the water of purification that cleanses** from the sin of defilement of contact with a dead body, is mentioned in *Num 19:1-18*. A red heifer was offered as a sin offering, its blood was sprinkled in front of the tabernacle, and then the heifer was burnt outside the camp with cedar wood, scarlet (wool) and hyssop. The **ashes** that resulted were to be kept to prepare “the water of purification for purifying from sin,” *Num 19:9*. A person became unclean by touching a dead body, being in a tent where someone had died, touching someone slain in battle, etc. They were cleansed when the **ashes** mixed with running water were sprinkled over them.
  
3. **In the New Testament** again there are two things used for cleansing.
  - a. **the Blood of Jesus** cleanses us from all our sins. Hallelujah! *Rev 1:5, 1Jn 1:7, Heb 9:14*.
  - b. **the Word of God** washes and cleanses us, as mentioned in *Eph 5:25-27, Jn 15:3, Ps 119:9,11*.  
“Christ loved the Church, and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle....”
  
4. **The Word of God, applied by the Holy Spirit** to our lives each day, **cleanses us from the sin of defilement** by this evil, God-rejecting world system that we come into contact with. *1Jn 5:19, 1Jn 2:15-17, Eph 2:1, Eph 2:5, Eph 5:8, Eph 5:11*.  
The world system has man at the centre and not God. It is a sphere of darkness, death, sin, evil and wickedness, and whether it is presented to us in the dress of communism or capitalism, its religion is “humanism” – “man is the measure of all things!” [Humanism has no absolutes of right and wrong, every person is free to do what is right in his own eyes, and all people are inherently good. The only evil in a person is due to the influence of his environment]. *Mat 15:18,19, Jer 17:9, Ps 14:2,3, Deut 12:8, Pro 16:25, Ex20:1-17*. We meet the evil and sin of this world at school, university, in business, the trades, commerce, the magazine racks at the stationers, the video shop, in our homes through TV, radio, the newspapers, and the internet.
  
5. We give great attention to washing our physical bodies, our hands, feet, hair, faces, ears and teeth. We are careful to wash off the dirt, grease, sweat, dust and to brush our teeth. We have racks of cleansing agents for different purposes - soaps, shampoos, toothpastes, detergents, and soap powders. We wash our clothes, dishes, cars, windows, carpets, steps.

6. But many people in the church ignore the moral dirt that comes from contact with the world, which defiles the mind, the thoughts and the soul. We are all influenced by the lies of Satan, blasphemy, unclean jokes, false values, rebellious attitudes, coarse language, unbelief, greed, covetousness, lust and impurity.
7. **We need the washing of the water of God's Word to flow over our souls every day,** morning and night, and during the day. Memorise whole chapters of scripture e.g. *Rom 6* and say it often out aloud.
8. Jesus, the night before He shed His blood to provide cleansing from sins, took water to wash His disciples' feet, *Jn 13*. Peter said, "Lord, you shall never wash my feet!" Jesus said, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me."
9. God promised, in *Ezk 36:25*, "I will sprinkle clean water upon you and you shall be clean, from all your filthiness and all your idols will I cleanse you."
10. Jesus said, "You are clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you." *Jn 15:3*.
11. **In *2Cor 6:14*, - *7:1*** the Word of God says, separate yourself from the evil and darkness of this age. If we are Christ's we are righteousness, light, in Christ, a believer, and the temple of God. If we are of this age we are lawlessness, darkness, of Satan, an unbeliever and an idolator. If we will separate ourselves from evil, God will establish eight precious promises with us – as in *2Cor 6:16-18*.

*2Cor 7:1* We cleanse ourselves from all filthiness; and perfect holiness by saturating ourselves, and washing ourselves with the Word of God every day, *Pro 4:20-22*.