

Morning Lesson

CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS

Eph. 5:25-27

INTRO:

- 1. This statement is chimney corner scripture
- 2. Proverb first appeared in English in 1791 in a John Wesley sermon.
- 3. The idea can be explored, scripture quotation or not.
- 4. God does not want us to touch unclean things. 2 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 5:5; Isa. 35:8; John 13:11; James 4:8
- 5. God's interest in cleanliness of the soul housed in that bathed (or unbathed) body. Matt. 23:25; 2 Cor. 7:1
- 6. Cleanliness is next to godliness because our souls must be cleansed before God considers us holy.

-I. SIN IS A POLLUTANT.

- A. Sin is pictured in scripture as darkness, disease, distance, death, debt, desolation, destruction, and defilement. 2 Pet. 2:20-22; Tit. 1:15; James 1:27 *HEB 6:11; 1 COR & 10:12*
- B. When Isaiah stood in the presence of God, he saw himself and his people differently. (Isa. 6:5)^{1:3} and he saw forgiveness in terms of being clean. Isa. 1:18
- C. Sin makes u unclean and when I stand guilty of sin, I cannot stand before God. *NOEL COWARD PRANC "I KNOW WHAT V D/D"*

-II. THE WORD IS GOD'S SOUL SCRUBBER.

- A. God doesn't divert rivers; he simply speaks words. John 15:3
- B. Individually they were clean because they had been sanctified by the word of truth. John 17:17
- C. Today we open his word to find his will. Rom. 10:6-8

-III. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS THE CLEANSER.

- A. We are washed in his blood. Rev. 1:5; 7:14; Zech. 13:1
- B. Paul was told to be baptized to wash away his sin. Acts 22:16; John 19:34; Rom. 6:3, 4
- C. We cannot apply the blood of Jesus to our souls. God must do it for us, and he does. Col. 2:12 *EPH. 1:7 1PE7 3:15*
- D. As Christians, we have access to that blood for continual cleansing. 1 John 1:7-9 *PSA. 119:105*

CONC:

1. Have you been washed white as snow? Acts 22:16