

Nov, 16, 2014
A.M. OUTLINE

THE CHRISTIAN'S CLEANSING

(Psalm 51:1-19)

INTRODUCTION

After doing a dirty and sweaty work, we want a thorough cleansing. Spiritually, that feel-good cleansing is sweeter when we come to God for cleansing of sin.

David's words in this Psalm parallel the attitude and action required for the Christian.

(2 Sam. 11:3-4) David commits adultery, (v14-17) David arranges a murder.

(2 Sam. 12:13-14) Nathan convicts David of sin; David confesses and is forgiven.

As Christians, we have a similar path of forgiveness as David: (2 Cor. 7:10).

1. (v1-6) ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SIN

- 1) (v1) "Have mercy on me, O God" - being guilty as charged, I need mercy.
- 2) (v2) "Wash" and "cleanse" - I can see that I'm dirty; need more than a spot-job.
- 3) (v3) "I acknowledge my transgression" - I did it, guilty, it bothers me.
- 4) (v4) "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned" - I violated God's law.
- 5) (v5-6) "thou desire truth in the inward parts" - sin is a matter of the heart, and "truth must be in me to know wisdom."
(Prov. 4:23) "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out it are the issues of life"

2. (v7-11) ASK FOR CLEANSING

- 1) (v7) "Purge me ... wash me ... " - ask God for forgiveness, pardon, remission, etc.
- 2) (v8) "... that the bones ... " - I want the blessing of healing within: (Matt. 5:4).
- 3) (v9) "Hide ... blot out ... " - see (Isaiah 38:17 and Isaiah 43:25)
- 4) (v10) "Create in me a clean heart ... right spirit" - attitude determines action.
- 5) (v11) "Cast me not away ... take not the Holy Spirit from me"
(Isa. 59:2) sin separates, and we do not want God's presence and power to be absent in our lives.

3. (v12-19) ANNOUNCE YOUR RESTORATION

- 1) (v12-13) "I will teach" - I just cannot keep this good news to myself.
- 2) (v14) "my tongue shall sing" - (Psalm 63:5; 66:1; 81:1)
- 3) (v15) "my lips" - Christianity is a show-n-tell, a lips-n-life, religion.
- 4) (v16-17) "a broken and contrite heart" - I give God my heart continually.
- 5) (v18-19) "the sacrifices of righteousness" - attend the worship assembly, and "then shall they" - what we do affects others.

CLOSE - this Psalm of repentance by David is a lesson for us on how to return to God.