

**Image:** No one likes to clean. What if there were a formula that would cleanse your home forever? No more dusting, hoovering, cleaning...totally clean forever. How much would you pay?

**Need:** How about this? How much would you give for something that could cleanse, not only your past life, but also finally and forever cleanse you from sin's penalty and its effects? Not just some spiritual fountain of youth that made you morally perfect in this life – that's not going to happen. But even greater than that, some cleansing agent that was so powerful that it was able to overcome not only your past, but also any present and future sins that hindered your ability to access God. Now that would be something worth having. We get beat up in this world by sin. We get beat up by sin that haunts us from our past. We get beat up by sin that seems to bully us in the present. All of that affects our ability to hope in the future. We desperately a super cleaning agent, don't we?

**Context:** This is it. This is the throw-down...the culmination of everything that has been said. This is the climactic moment where he nails this notion that Jesus is the best. There is nothing for these people to retreat back into that offers any hope of salvation because Jesus has done it all. Either He has dealt with sin or He hasn't. To be dealt with is to be dealt with. Period.

**Preview:** So in what sense has He dealt with our sin, and what does that mean for us as we continue to live in a world in which we battle against it in our lives? Can we have hope in a future removed from sin? Or are we forever enslaved & chained to our past so that we can't move forward in our present?

- I. Christ has cleansed us completely (1-10). **Inductively at C.**
  - A. He accomplished what the Law couldn't (1-4)
    1. The Law, because it was only a shadow and not the fullness, could never make us perfect (cleanse us completely from sin and make us fit as worshippers) (1).
      - a. If it could have, they would've been clean given the number of sacs that were made (2).
      - b. Consciousness of sin has to do with being reminded that sin carries a penalty.  
Consciousness of guilt associated with sin.
    2. Instead, every year sins are remembered and paid for because the blood of a bull can't take away the guilt of a person's sin (3-4).
  - B. Christ accomplished complete cleansing of God's people by His once for all offering (5-10).
    1. **Psalm 40** is here applied to Jesus' Incarnation what did what needed to be done (5-7).
      - a. The will of God was a people transformed on the inside. He desires a change of heart that leads to obedience – the Law only dealt with externals (5b, 6).
      - b. We see this idea throughout the Scriptures, that a passive sacrifice is no match for an active sacrifice of one's own life in obedience (**OT: Ps. 50:8; 51:10, 16; 1 Sam. 15:22; Is. 1:11; 66:1; Jer. 7:21; Hos. 6:6; 14:2; Amos 5:21; Mic. 6:6. NT: Rom. 12:1-2**).
    2. It was, rather, in the Incarnation in which Jesus took on the task of accomplishing the will of God. He willingly came to die (5c, 7).
      - a. In dying, He abolished the old system to establish a new one (8-9).
      - b. God's will is the removal of sin...to make clean on inside (**Mt. 12:34; Rom. 8:29**)
  - C. Our cleansing is complete in Christ (10).
    1. We've been declared innocent, acquitted. Perfect tense: past action, present result.
    2. This was accomplished ONCE FOR ALL through His **body** (body and blood). Once and so never to be repeated.
- II. Christ has cleansed us completely and FINALLY...Forever! (11-18). **Inductively at C.**
  - A. Christ's work is forever effective (11-14)
    1. In contrast to the earthly priests (11-13).
      - a. They stand because they have to continually offer up sacrifices that are ultimately ineffective. Their work is never done because it doesn't do away with sin (11).
      - b. Jesus sat because His sacrifice was eternally effective (12)
        - i. In fact, His work was so final that what He does now is wait for God to complete the course of human history which will see the culmination and realization of His enthronement as God (13).

- ii. This is the fullness of **Ps. 110** now realized. He dealt with sin and accomplished God's will, and is now enthroned bc His work is done... forever.
- 2. And so, we are eternally constituted as God's holy people (**14**)
  - a. He can sit because those He has made perfect (cleansed completely from sin's effect) have been cleansed forever... for all time. In other words, our cleansing from sin (and its effect) is as unrepeatable as Jesus' sacrifice because the former (our cleansing) is based on the latter (His sacrifice). We have been made fit worshippers in God's presence forever.
  - b. "**Those who are sanctified.**" Those being sanctified. Seems best to be thinking of a timeless principle. Our sanctification lasts. This is the way the term is used in Hebrews.
- B. This cleansing is witnessed by the Holy Spirit's presence with us to give life (**15-17**). Incidentally, note the Trinitarian presence in this section. Father's will for pure worshippers, Son's eternal blood which effects it, and the Spirit's presence guarantees it.
  - 1. His presence with us gives us evidence of new life – "**bears witness**" – testifies or confirms (**Rom. 8:15-16; Eph. 1:13-14**) – and the hope that it will last.
  - 2. God's presence is no longer with us to condemn us and remind us of sin (as in the OC (**v. 1-4**)) but He is now with us to remind us of life.
    - a. New ability having the Law written on our hearts and His enablement (**16**).
    - b. A new standing based on the complete forgiveness of sin (**17**).
- C. And so Christ has cleansed us not only completely, but forever (**18**).
  - 1. If everything has been accomplished there is nothing left to do.
  - 2. This was the ultimate goal of God: perfect fellowship with a perfect people, forever. It is accomplished in Christ so that there is nothing left to do.

III. We must realize that our position with regard to sin has totally changed. We've been saved.

- A. With regard to the past, the penalty has been paid and we no longer own it.
  - 1. We look at the past to learn from the past – like looking at history to avoid repeating its mistakes. We should learn from our previous mistakes. Places to avoid, weaknesses we may have for certain things, situations that get us into trouble bc of our weaknesses, etc.
  - 2. But then we leave the past. God has dealt fully with our past in order that He might give us a present and a future. So we move forward in our new-found freedom.
- B. In the present, we realize that the Spirit has given us new life...new ability and power to fight against sin. We still battle sin...this is not license. We'll still fall and have to go before God in confession. But we have power through the Spirit to stand up and endure temptation without giving in. We have been saved from it's power.
- C. In the future, we long for the day when we will be saved from sin's very presence as it is completely eliminated in the presence of God.

**Conc:** Through the once for all sacrifice of Christ, we have perfect access based on a pure relationship based on a permanent forgiveness of sin. What more do you want. This is the pinnacle of the argument of Hebrews. Remember when we started this series, the very first week was "you can't do better." And you can't. You can't improve on what Jesus did. You can still own your sins if you like. You can still carry around the burden if you choose...but you'll have to pay for it one day. Or you can let Jesus own it through faith in the complete and final payment for it through His death. If you've let Jesus own your past, don't try to take it back. It's been dealt with...it's no longer yours to own. Look at it and learn from it, but then leave it and move forward in faith.

**Image:** Tribe in SA that expresses wrong done by sticks in the wall. He has removed the sticks and cemented the wall. We are pure before Him.