

## "Wash Your Hands!"

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by Wayne Goff

*"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded**" ~ **James 4:8**.*

We are all very aware these days of washing our hands. I think I've lost a layer or two of skin from constant washing and using disinfectant wipes! But if that is what it takes to keep away the coronavirus, then let's keep it up!

But consider the **"cleansing"** of the blood of Jesus Christ and its affect on your heart, soul, and mind! When we first obeyed the Gospel, and were washed in baptism, we experienced Jesus **"sanctifying and cleansing"** (**Ephesians 5:26**) us with the washing of water by the Word. We arose out of that initial baptism clean and pure as a newborn baby (**1 Peter 2:2**)!

Just like our physical hands, our spiritual bodies need regular cleansing as well. The Hebrew writer contrasted the *ceremonial* cleansing of the Old Testament with the **spiritual cleansing** of Christ's blood as Christians! *"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**" (**Hebrews 9:14**).* The blood of Christ cleanses our dirty consciences!

As we sin from time to time, we need **cleansing** again, **1 John 1:7, 9**. *"**7**But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son **cleanses us from all sin....** **9**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and **to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**"*

Pharisees ceremonially cleansed cups and dishes (**Matthew 23:26**), but forgot to cleanse their hearts and minds! They were a stench in the nostrils of God.

*"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit**, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," **2 Corinthians 7:1**.* Long after the coronavirus epidemic is over, you and I will be constantly on guard, cleansing ourselves from the polluting, infecting **"filthiness"** of the flesh and spirit. In this way, we can be fit for the eternal kingdom of God!

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