

## **3-31-19**

# **SPIRITUAL SPRING CLEANING**

### ***Intro:***

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

II Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

II Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

II Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

II Corinthians 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

II Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Spring officially started March 20th of this year. Ever wonder what determines spring?

### **Let me give a little introduction about spring:**

#### **1. EQUAL DAY AND NIGHTS.**

The vernal equinox (The word vernal means spring in latin) marks the start of spring when the day and night are the same lengths. This is a time for new beginnings, birth, and fresh starts. While the summer and winter solstices mark the longest and shortest days of the year, equinoxes happen in between when the day and night are equal.

In Latin, equinox literally means "equal night."Equinoxes occur when the sun shines directly at the equator on the only day of the year the tilt of the Earth's axis is perpendicular to the sun.

#### **2. RELATIVE TO THE 20th of the month.**

The spring equinox doesn't occur on the same day every year, although it typically falls on the 19, 20, or 21. This is due to the timing of the sun crossing over the equator. Since the Earth's orbit is always changing in relation to the sun and not every year on Earth has the same amount of days (think leap years!) the date isn't always set in stone.

You can mark your calendar for 2019's spring equinox as March 20 as well but in 2020, it will fall on the 19th.

Though it has been a bit cold out, spring is here and spring is coming on us, PRAISE THE LORD!

When we think of Spring we think of spring cleaning. Spring is a time when the trees bud, the grass starts getting green, and we think of spring showers and also spring cleaning.

In a few weeks we have scheduled a spring cleaning workday like we do every year. This is a time when we go through the church and clean up areas that seem to get neglected the rest of the year.

I want to take the thought of spring and use it as a jumping stone for spiritual thoughts concerning SPIRITUAL CLEANING.

The Bible has a lot to say about the subject of spiritual cleansing.

Spiritual cleansing is far more important than physical cleansing.

I have been in places that are so bad that couldn't breathe but people live in that situation for years and they get used to it. So it is with the spiritual condition of many people. Their life is so filled with spiritual darkness and filth and they just think that is normal. It can get so bad that some people don't even know they need to clean up.

## ***I. Where do you start in this spiritual cleaning process?***

***If we were to start cleaning our house or car what is the most important thing that we would need?***

### **WE MUST START WITH CLEAN WATER.**

First You Need Some Clean Water To Clean all the dirt that has accumulated.

Let us read a text this morning that talks about spiritual water!

In Ephesians 5:26 the Bible says that Jesus sanctifies and cleanses us through the washing of the water of the word.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Psalms 119:9 {Beth.} Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

What water is to the cleaning process, so the word of God is to our spiritual cleansing.

The word of God cleanses our lives.

Before we can have faith we must be exposed to the Word of God.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

So many people think that they can know God a different way than by hearing and reading the Bible. This is a lie!

Some people think they know God and become spiritual through feelings and emotional highs.

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO BE CLEANSED AND KNOW GOD THAN BY HEARING AND RECEIVING BY FAITH THE MESSAGE OF THE WORD OF GOD.

No other way a person can be saved but that they hear the word of God and receive the message of the gospel:

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

Every morning you shower or wash.

So every morning we should read the word of God.

What water is to the cleansing process the word of God is to the spiritual cleansing process.

Psalms 119:9 {Beth.} Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

The Bible is your spiritual water of cleansing. It is the only thing that will clean up your life. It is the only thing that will sanctify you.

The Bible says we are cleansed by the washing of that Spiritual water which is the word of God. Eph. 5:26

What is the next thing that we would need if we set out to clean up our physical life?

The next thing you would need if you were to try and clean up your house, your body, your car, or whatever, IS SOAP!

## ***II. For Spiritual Cleansing We Need Spiritual Soap. First We need the water of the Word of God:***

Secondly We need Some Spiritual Soap.

Think about it, why can't you just get something clean with water. Many times it will be cleaner, but some stains and dirt are so bad that water will just run right off it. For these you need something that will penetrate these deep stains and dirt.

When I am looking to spray over a piece of furniture or piano the first thing I do is clean the wood. I wash it down with a detergent, and then I clean it further with some chemicals, like wax wash or silicone wash. The reason I do this is because if I go to spray over the cabinet the lacquer will many times just peel right off if the finish is not perfectly clean.

So it is with our spiritual life. The word just rolls right off you like water off of a ducks back if you do not have a little help.

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL SOAP THAT NEEDS TO BE USED WITH THE WORD OF GOD TO MAKE IT WORK?

Let me suggest that the spiritual soap that will clean deep sin and darkness in your life is none other than the Holy Spirit of God:

For those who have been hardened by sin, water alone will not do.  
SOMETIMES MORE THAN WATER IS NEEDED.

Think about it. What exactly does soap do? Soap is a form of an abrasive. It tears down dirt, oils, films, grease, things that repel water. Water will just roll off of oils, greases, films and some deep deep dirt.

When a surgeon wants to really clean his hands he takes a brush and scrubs under his finger nails with a brush and soap. When I get a piano that is really dirty, I take steel wool and add a chemical to it that gets down deep and scrubs out the dirt.

Let me suggest to you that spiritually many times the Holy Spirit will rub you the wrong way in order that you might be cleansed of sin. Sin gets ingrained into our lives and it won't let go so easily.

**1. Without the conviction of the Holy Ghost men can not be saved.  
THE HOLY GHOST, THE SPIRIT OF GOD CAN PENETRATE AREAS THAT  
ARE HARD TO PIERCE.**

THE BIBLE LIKENS THE HOLY SPIRIT TO A REFINERS SOAP.

The spirit of God quickens out heart and mind to receive the word of God.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

The Holy Spirit Renews us and Washes us from within..

Without the spirit of God the preaching of the word of God is not comprehend-able.

I Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

I Corinthians 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

I Corinthians 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

I Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

I Corinthians 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

I Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I Corinthians 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

I Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Talk to some people about the word of God and it is like water off of a duck's back. There is no comprehension. The reason for this is that the Holy Spirit of God is not working in them. Just as it takes fire to refine silver or gold, so it takes the fire of the Holy Spirit to melt a hard heart.

Malachi 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? ***for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:***

Malachi 3:3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Think about the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Cloven tongues of fire are what the Holy Ghost is like, fire purifies.  
Fire cleanses.

Fire is what refines silver and gold, separates the dross from the metal.

Without the Spirit of God we cannot receive the word of God.

## ***2. Without the cleansing of the Holy Spirit No man can live a righteous life:***

I Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

I Corinthians 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

***I Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.***

The Spirit of God cleanses us from within.

We cannot walk in newness of life without the Holy Spirit of God.

It is not enough to just hear the word of God.

We need the Spirit of God to work in our hearts and minds.

Some would say, well the Spirit just hasn't been given to me and therefore God could not impute blame to me. It is His fault and not mine!

Some think they have no choice in the matter.

Do we have a choice in the matter?

**A. *We need to ask to be filled with God's Spirit.***

Luke 11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Luke 11:12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

**B. *We need to yield to the Holy Spirit of God.***

Hebrews 3:15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Acts 7:51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

The Spirit of God can be resisted.

Because we love sin.

Because we want the pleasures of sin for a season.

Because we want to please people for the world.

I think of myself: when the Spirit was speaking to me in that little church, I almost felt that if I resisted that day it would be my last chance.

When we do spring cleaning we need to go out and purchase soap and cleaners.

Consider the parable of the 10 Virgins, 5 wise 5 foolish.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

The oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. No fire without oil. They had a choice as to whether they would buy oil or not.

Illust. If you are going to yield to the Holy Spirit you need to surrender some of the world's pleasures to possess it.

Why would these foolish virgins not want to part with their money to buy the oil? That money could be some pleasurable things in this world.

**III. *Get Rid OF the Excess Wordly Things. The Final thing we need to do to achieve Spiritual Spring Cleaning is to throw out the excess and worldliness in our lives.***

Matthew 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Matthew 23:26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

II Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

II Corinthians 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

II Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

This is the time of the year we like doing spring cleaning.

Spiritual Spring cleaning means throwing out the excesses of this life.

Sometimes we need to look at what needs to be thrown out of our lives. The extortion and excess.

Speaking of the Pharisees the Lord said of them:

But within they are full of extortion and excess.

Sometimes when things are too much of mess it time to get out the spiritual garbage bag and get rid of some of the excess.

If your life is not functioning spiritually it may be because there is too much worldly clutter.

Some people have no time for church, no time for Bible reading and prayer.

No time for witnessing. It's time to get the spiritual garbage bag and start dumping in the spiritual excess.

Application:

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Spring cleaning:

We need some fresh water:

Some spiritual soap

Some separating from Wordly Garbage

Word of God

The Holy Spirit

Separate our selves from worldliness

Psalms 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Psalms 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalms 51:8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Psalms 51:9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalms 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Psalms 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Invitation:

We used to have a dog, we called him pepper. Our kids would just say the word bath and the dog would run.

A lot of people like that when it comes to spiritual matters. You say church and they run away.

Word of God.  
Holy Spirit .  
Cleaning their lives.

Spiritual Bath time and they run. They are spiritual dogs.

This Spring think spring cleaning.  
This Spring think SPIRITUAL SPRING CLEANING!