## "Let Us Cleanse Ourselves" 2 Corinthians 7:1

**Introduction:** As Christians: 1. - We Should Be On A Daily Quest: - To Fight Against: - The Enemies That: - Wage War On Our Souls! - And - One Of Those Enemies: - Which We Are Looking At: - Is Our Own, Fallen Flesh! And - Tonight: 2. - We Are Going To Add: - Something Else: - To Our Arsenal - To Aid Us: - In Our Fight! - Another Arrow: - In Our Quiver! Or: - Another Bullet: - In Our Chamber! - And - We Can Add This: - To The Other Weapons: - That We've Been Looking At: - On Sunday Nights! 3. What Are Those Other Weapons? - To Review: - To Fight Against Our Flesh: - We Need To Learn To: - Deny Our Flesh: - More And More! - Which Is What We Found In: - Romans 13:14 - "Make Not Provision For The Flesh, To Fulfill The Lusts Thereof!" - Then - We Also Need To Learn To: - Detest Our Flesh: - With A Holy Hate! - And - Not Just Your Flesh - But: - "Hating Even The Garment Spotted By The Flesh!" (Jude 23) - Which Includes Anything That: - Covers Up Or Brings Comfort To Or Even Contributes To: - The Lusts Of Our Flesh! - Then - We Also Need To Learn To: - Discard Our Flesh! - Which Involves: - Putting Off: - The Old Man! And: - Putting On: - The New Man! - As We Saw From: - Ephesians 4! - However - These Weapons: - Will Only Be Effective: - As We Depend On The Lord - And: - Dwell With The Spirit: - In Our Daily Walk With The Lord! Well - Tonight: 4, - Let's Open Our Bibles To: - 2 Corinthians 7 - Where We Find:

## - This New Weapon - Which We Can Describe As:

- Decontaminating Our Flesh!

- Even As Paul Tells Us:
  - In 2 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!"

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6.

So - To Those Who:

- Are Christians:

- And - Who Know That:

- They Have Been Cleansed By:

- The Blood Of The Lord Jesus Christ!

- We Now Have A Responsibility:

- To "Cleanse Ourselves!"

- And - To Decontaminate Ourselves:

- "From All Filthiness Of The Flesh And Spirit!"

Now - This Is Not A Contradiction:

- From What Jesus Said To His Disciples:

- In John 13:

- When He Told Them:

- "Ye Are Clean!"

- Because - As Christians:

- They Were - And We Are!

- But - We Still Need To Have The Daily Dirt And Grime:

- Washed Off Of Our Feet:

- As We Strive To Walk With & For The Lord In This Life!

7. "Let Us Cleanse Ourselves!"And - The First Thing We Find In This Verse Is:

## 1. The Reasons To Cleanse Ourselves!

- The Reasons - Which Are:

- The Very Promises Of God!

- 7:1 - "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves!"

- Not - The Promises:

- That Paul Is Talking About:

- Are Found Just Before This Verse:

- In The Previous Chapter!

- Where - In Paul's Discussion:

- About Biblical Separation:

- From This World!

- He Encourages Us:

- With Several Promises From:

- 6:16b-18!

- Where Paul Reminds Us:

- "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. / Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, / And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty!"

- In These Verses:

- There Are Several Promises:

- Given To God's People:

- That Are Absolute And Unconditional! Like:

- The Promise Of God's Presence:

- With You - In 6:16 - "I Will Dwell In Them, And Walk In Them!"

- This Is The Promise Of God's Presence!

- And Ought To Motivate Us:

- To Pursue After Purity In Our Lives - And To:

- Decontaminate Our Flesh!

- The Promise Of God's Possession:

- Of You - Also In 6:16 - "And I Will Be Their God, And They Shall Be My People!"

- This Is The Promise Of God's Possession!

- Which Also Ought To Motivate Us To:

- "Cleanse Ourselves From All Filthiness Of The Flesh And Spirit!"

- The Promise Of God's Pleasure:

- In You - In 6:17 - "I Will Receive You!"

- This Is The Promise Of God' Pleasure:

- And Is Another Reason:

- To Separate Ourselves From The Enemies Of Our Souls!

- The Promise Of God's Provision:

- For You - In 6:18 - "And Will Be A Father Unto You!"

- This Is The Promise of God's Provision:

- And Ought To Encourage You:

- To Be More Holy & Perfect:

- Even As Your Father In Heaven Is Holy & Perfect!

- But - There's Even Another Promise:

- In These Verses - And That Is:

- The Promise Of God's Power:

- That Is Available:

- For You - Because In 6:18 - The One Who Makes All Of These Promises Is:

- "The Lord Almighty!"

- Who Alone As The Power:

- To Keep And Fulfill All Of These Promises:

- For You!

- And These Exceeding Great & Precious Promises:

- Are All Reasons:

- To Cleanse & Decontaminate Ourselves:

- From Our Own Flesh!

- 2 Corinthians 7:1:

- "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves!"

- But Then - From This Verse:

- We Find:

## 2. The Responsibility To Cleanse Ourselves!

- The Responsibility: - As Christians & As A Church! - The Word Translated:

- "Cleanse" Is - Katharizo!

- And Even Though At Times:

- It Refers To Something:

- Done For Us:

- By The Lord!

- It Also Refers To Something:

- That Needs to Be Done By Us:

- For The Lord!

- But - The Only Reason Why:

- We Can "Cleanse Ourselves" Is Because Of:

- The Power For This Kind Of Cleansing:

- That Can Only Come:

- From The Lord!

- This Is Why:

- In Psalm 51:2 - David Prayed:

- "Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!"

- It Is Only Through:

- The Power Of Christ - And:

- His Cleansing - Can We Ever Have The Power & The Hope:

- To "Cleanse Ourselves!"

- And - Of Course:

- How Did Jesus Christ Cleanse Us: - From Our Sins? - Through The Shedding Of His Blood On The Cross! - But - It Is His Power: - That Then Leads Us To: - The Process For This Kind Of Cleansing! - For "Cleansing Ourselves From All Filthiness Of The Flesh And Spirit!" - We Can Never Separate Ourselves: - From The Power Of Our Cleansing! - Instead - We Need To Keep Applying The Cleansing Power Of Jesus And His Blood: - To Our Fallen & Foul Flesh! - So - How Can We Do This? - First - There Needs To Be: - Confession Of Our Filthiness! - Even As John Tells Us In: - 1 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!" - So - To "Cleanse Ourselves" Requires: - Confession to The Lord! - Then - There Needs To Be: - Contemplation Of: - What God Has Given To Us: - To Cleanse Us! - In Our Minds & In Our Hearts! - We Need To Contemplate & Meditate Upon: - The Word Of God - And: - His Promises / Precepts / And Everything Else In Between! - Even As We Find In: - Ephesians 5:26 - Where Paul Reminds Us: - That "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; / That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word!" - And So - We Need To Remember: - That We Can Never "Cleanse Ourselves" Apart From: - The Word Of God! - After All - Jesus Himself Told His Disciples: - In John 15:3 - "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you!" - Then - In This Process For "Cleansing Ourselves!" - After Confession & Contemplation: - There Needs To Be Communion: - With The Lord! - Daily Communion! - Even As John Tells Us In: - 1 John 1:7 - "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin!" - So - This Reminds Us Of The Fact That: - We Can Never "Cleanse Ourselves" Without Depending On The Lord & Dwelling With The Spirit! - Because Ongoing Cleansing: - Takes Place As: - "We Have Fellowship One With Another!" - Not Referring To: - Your Fellowship With:

- Other Christians!

- Though That Is Also Useful And Important!

- But - John Is Referring To:

- Your Fellowship & Communion With:

- Christ Himself!

- But Then - As You Walk With The Lord:

- In This Kind Of Communion:

- There Also Needs To Be:

- Commitment:

- To The Lord!

- Even A Daily Re-Commitment:

- To Decontaminate & Cleanse Yourself:

- From Your Flesh!

- This Is What James:

- Has In Mind When He Writes:

- In James 4:8 - "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded!"

- There Is A Close Connection Between:

- Drawing Nigh To God - And:

- Cleansing Your Hands - And:

- Purifying Your Hearts!

- So - Commit Yourself:

- To This Kind Of Cleansing:

- In Your Walk With The Lord!

- And Then - Something Else You Need To Do:

- In This Process Of "Cleansing Yourself From All Filthiness" - Is Actually:

- Cutting Yourself Off:

- From That Which Is Unclean!

- This Is The Kind Of:

- Clean Break That Paul Describes:

- In 2 Corinthians 6:17:

- "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing!"

- And - As You Rely On:

- The Power Of God:

- To Cleanse Yourself:

- You Need To Apply:

- This Process:

- To Cleanse & Decontaminate Yourself:

- From The Enemy Of Your Flesh!

- And - This Applies To Both:

- The Sinful Struggles:

- Of Your Body - As Well As:

- The Sinful Struggles:

- Of Your Spirit!

- Remember - You Do Have A Responsibility:

- To "Cleanse Yourself From All Filthiness!"

- And That Is Why In The Rest Of 2 Corinthians 7:1 - The Apostle Paul Wants You And Me To See:

3. The Resolve To Cleanse Ourselves!

- The Resolve!

- At The End Of The Verse:

- "Perfecting Holiness In The Fear Of God!"

- Doesn't This Describe:

- What The True Passion Should Be For Believers?

- "Perfecting Holiness" Means:

- To Pursue Holiness!

- Also Translated As:

- "Bringing Holiness To Completion!"

- William Tyndale:

- "Grow Up To Full Holiness!"

- That Is - This Is Your Aim And Goal!

- Knowing That: - One Day - It Will Be Fulfilled! - Do You Have This Resolve? - To Pursue Holiness? - "Holiness Of Life & Conversation?" (John Gill) - Remember 1 Peter 1:15: - "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation!" - When You Have This Kind Of Resolve: - You Will Seek To Cleanse Yourself - And: - Decontaminate Yourself: - From The Enemy Of Your Flesh! - But - Not Only Should Your Resolve Be: - To Pursue Holiness: - It Should Also Be: - To Please God! - By Doing So: - "In The Fear Of God!" - That Is - With The Right Kind Of Fear And Reverence Toward God: - As Your Heavenly Father! **Conclusion:** In This Fight Against The Flesh: - You Have A Responsibility: - To "Cleanse Yourself" From: - All The Filthiness Of Your Flesh! - Sadly - When The Fight: - Gets Too Tough: - You Might Feel Like: - Giving In & Giving Up: - To The Flesh! But - Instead: - Remember That: - Along With Your Responsibility: - God Has Given You Many Reasons & Promises: - To Help You: - In Your Pursuit Of Purity! So - As You: - Depend On The Lord - And: - Dwell With The Spirit: - Make This Resolution! - Not Just Every Year! But Daily! - Resolve Each Day: - To Pursue Holiness - And: - To Please God! - And You Will Experience: - Greater Victory Over Your Flesh And All Of Its Filthiness! Grace Baptist Church Stephen Elmer, Pastor 4245 North 200 West Greenfield, Indiana 46140

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