

“Let Us Cleanse Ourselves”
2 Corinthians 7:1

Introduction:

1. As Christians:
 - 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!
2. And - Tonight:
 - 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!
 - 4. Well - Tonight:
 - 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!”
- 5. 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!”
- 6. 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 thoroughly 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:

- 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:

1. 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!
2. But - Instead:
 - Remember That:
 - Along With Your Responsibility:
 - God Has Given You Many Reasons & Promises:
 - To Help You:
 - In Your Pursuit Of Purity!
3. 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
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com