

For Prayer:

David Dawson and New Heights Missionary Baptist Church of Ardmore, OK
Thanks for Stephen's mouth surgery and his new job

Colossians 4:12 KJV Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Revelation 1:5b-6 KJV Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Some small children are playing outside. Their parents told them to stay out of the mud. But they disobeyed their parents, and got right in the mud, and got all muddy.

It was Wednesday, so the parents have opportunity to take their children to church. But the children can't go to church filthy from playing in the mud. The children are not going to clean themselves up---they can't. No one else is going to clean them up.

These parents love their children, and want this good for them, to be at church that evening. The parents draw a bath for their children, a tub full of clean, warm water. The children, of course, don't have their own bathtub, and don't have the money to pay the water bill or the gas or electric bill for heating the water. But the parents are happy to provide all that the children need, at their own expense, because they love those children, and they want the best for them.

When they have bathed their children, they then take them to church, and seat them in their places, where God is being worshiped.

At the time, the children might or might not appreciate what their parents have done for them. But, when the children are older, and they understand, they will thank their parents for what they have done for them. They will enjoy telling other people what their parents did for them.

We were living our lives here in this world. The Word of God commands us how to live toward God and other people. But we have disobeyed, have rebelled, have transgressed the law of God; we have sinned. In sinning, we have made ourselves filthy with the guilt of our sins. It is like being muddy, but much, much worse.

It is the plan of God the Father for us to have honored places in the kingdom of heaven. But we cannot enter the kingdom of God when we are filthy in the guilt of our sin. We are not going to clean ourselves up---we can't. No one else is going to clean us up.

God the Father has given us to Jesus Christ, the Son. Because we are given to Him by His Father, Jesus Christ loves us, and wills us to have this good, these honored places in the kingdom of heaven. So Jesus Christ allows Himself to be tortured and killed, allows His own blood to flow out. This provides a cleansing stream made of His own blood. As water washes the body from dirt, the blood of Jesus Christ washes the soul from the guilt of sin. He sends forth that good news, the gospel, and causes us to hear it. He sends also His Holy Spirit to work inside us, working in us faith and repentance, through which we are justified and forgiven.

He then makes us kings and priests under Him and with Him in the kingdom of God, where God is being worshiped.

At the time, we might or might not understand very well or appreciate very much what Jesus Christ has done for us. But when we do come to understand it better, we will cry out to the Lord Jesus, thanking Him for what He has done for us. And we will enjoy telling other people what the Lord Jesus has done for us, and ascribing to Him forever all glory and dominion!