

A Clean Conversion

What does it feel like to be converted to Christ? Is it a simple “change” or is it something more complex? Have you ever spent a hot summer day with children or grandkids? Maybe a picnic at the park with favorite food. We watch with delight as they enjoy the food. Later on, maybe sharing a crumb or two with the “wild” animals. Then, possibly, they decide to go fishing (baiting a hook with slimy worms). Or, looking in the distance there’s a hill large enough to roll down. Going up and down the hill several times is sweaty and exhausting. Yet, it’s fun—right? Now hot and covered with grass, a shady path beckons you through the forest. It’s a muddy walk. It had rained the day before. Everyone is hot, sticky, muddy, and grass is all over. Time to go home. Home at last! The bed is so inviting... What to do now? Feeling sticky, sweaty, grungy, dirty, and too tired to do anything about it. How long can anyone stay “clean” after a day of “fun” activity like that? Dirt is inevitable, but is it undesirable? Do we want to stay dirty?

Sometimes sin feels just like “dirt.” It accumulates. It sticks. It smells. We may have enjoyed our activity, but later we experience the consequences. It’s possible we feel as if something is “not right” in our life. We know we need to do “something” but what? We may not know what to do, but we don’t want to ask anyone. We procrastinate in seeking God’s guidance. We haven’t made time to read the Bible and discover what God wants from us. Laziness triumphs. Stickiness endures. “Feeling better” is not what’s needed to truly be clean. Sometimes we do a good deed or “show up” to worship thinking that will help us feel better, but does it? We are choosing “quick fixes.” They are temporary. The “dirt” is there...

After we become a Christian through baptism in water for the remission of sins, we may have other “clean up” to do. We need to get rid of the “dirt forming habits” in our lives in order to stay clean. We have to make life converting changes. Even if it means a little extra work or initiative on our part. In 1 Peter we read “clothe yourselves with humility toward one another” and in Revelation “clothe yourselves with white garments (purity) so the shame of your nakedness may not be seen.” We are to be a sweet aroma to God “among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.” Okay then, do we want to be a clean aroma or a stinky aroma?

In 1 Timothy 6:14, we are to “keep God’s commandments, stained and free from reproach until the appearing of Jesus.” In 2 Peter 1:5-11, we are told to “do these things” and “be diligent” to add good character so we can be effective and fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We can strive to stay clean!

Will we get dirty again? Will we sin again? Of course we will! But we can do everything in our power to TRY to stay clean. Realize this; God can wash our sin away—initially through baptism—and again through the forgiveness that comes with prayer. In case you’re seeking cleanliness, here are some Scriptures to consider as you seek to walk a clean, converted life with Jesus.

John 3:16 tells who to believe. Romans 10:9 tells us what to say and verse 17 tells us where to hear our information. Acts 2:37-47 shares how to respond and be cleansed. And 1 Peter 2:21-24 tells us of the example we should live and why.

Have we made a “clean conversion?”

Bday/Anniv Lunch: ...when we can!

Bible Study: Consider your study of God’s Word (see **2 Timothy 2:15**) Make time to learn Scripture today...

NMCCH: collecting aluminum foil and kitchen trash bags (pick up is later...)

—THANK YOU for reading!