

Continual Cleansing

Introduction:

The doctrine of continual cleansing is an off-shoot of the once saved always saved teaching. While we might not consider it a major issue, it is gaining more recognition in the religious world. With our series on our assurance in salvation, it is important that we take a look at this subject.

I. What Is Continual Cleansing?

- A. The idea that Christ's blood continually washes away the sins of Christians.
 - 1. Is based upon 1 John 1:7.
 - a) Emphasis is on *cleanses*. Written in present tense.
 - 2. No repentance is necessary with this doctrine.

II. Two Extremes

- A. 1 John 1:7 - God continually cleanses you regardless of your acknowledgment or concern. No need for repentance.
 - 1. Problem: We must walk in the light. 1 John 1:7
 - a. Walk is active, shows something I must do. 1 Jn. 1:6
 - 2. NT use of walk:
 - a. Walk a new life – Rom. 6:4
 - b. Walk according to the Spirit – Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:16,25
 - c. Walk by faith – 2 Cor. 5:7
 - d. Walk as children of light – Eph. 5:8
 - e. Walk wisely – Eph. 5:15
- B. We must specifically confess each and every sin.
 - 1. I must go to great lengths to remember each sin & ask for forgiveness.
 - 2. Problem: Idea eliminates necessity of God's grace - Rom. 3:23
 - a. Makes everything dependent upon me and not God.
 - 3. Psalm 19:11-13 - Impossible to know about every sin.

III. Repentance and Attitude Is The Key!

- A. Heb. 6:1-6 - It is impossible to be forgiven for something I have not sought forgiveness.
 - 1. 2 Peter 3:9 - New Testament writers implored Christians to seek forgiveness.
- B. 2 Cor. 7:8-10 - Repentance is the driving force which brings us into a right relationship with God.
 - 1. 1 John 1:5-7 - Forces us to recognize we're nothing without God.
 - 2. 1 John 1:8 - Forces us to admit our own shortcomings. See also Lk. 18:13; Ps. 51:3
 - 3. 1 John 1:9 - Forces us to recognize we can be forgiven. See also Ps. 32:5
 - a. Some think they're too bad to be forgiven.
 - b. Acts 17:30 - God desires all men to be saved.

Conclusion

- A. Continual cleansing is a biblical teaching but not in the way many people today believe.
- B. Have you been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb?