

Cleaning The Inside

Sometimes we get caught up in the physical appearance of things. Something may appear to be good on the outside, but not on the inside. The thin coating of the outside does not hide the depth of the corruption on the inside. Jesus would accuse the Scribes and Pharisees of His day of doing this (**Matthew 23**).

Sometimes when one uses profane or inappropriate language, one may say, “Pardon my French” or something similar. One may apologize and say that it just slipped out. It has been said that the only thing we can spill out of the bucket is what is in the bucket (our heart or mind). What are we putting into our heart/mind?

We may fool people, but we do not fool God (**Hebrews 4:12-13**). Remember, Satan may appear as an angel of light and his ministers as servants of righteousness (**2 Corinthians 11:14-15**). There will be those who creep into households (**2 Timothy 3:6**). There will be those who are spots in our midst who are just serving themselves (**Jude 12**).

Some will clean the outside of the cup and dish, the physical appearance of being spiritually moral and upright. However, the inside (the heart) is full of extortion and self-indulgence (**Matthew 23:25-26, 28; Mark 7:15**). Spiritual pollution comes from the heart of men (**Hebrews 3:12; Colossians 3:5-9**). Uncleanness or covetousness ought not to be named among us as children of God (**Ephesians 5:3**). Remember that a little leaven leavens the whole loaf (**1 Corinthians 5:6; Galatians 5:9**). We must clean the inside of the cup.

There needs to be singleness of one’s heart (**2 Chronicles 30:12; Matthew 6:24**). Jesus said that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (**Matthew 12:34**). If we remove the evil from our heart but do not replace it with what is good, the last state will be worse than the first (**Matthew 12:43-45; 2 Peter 2:20**). The lamp of the body is the eye. If the spiritual eye is dark or bad, how great is the darkness (**Matthew 6:22-23; 33-36**).

We must clean up the mind and dwell on the good (**Philippians 4:8-9**). We are to renew the mind with the will of God (**Romans 12:2**). It is to be our meditation all the day (**Psalms 119:97**). What we treasure, physically or spiritually, is where our heart is. Is our heart set on the things of this world or the hope of the reward in the next world (**Revelation 2:10**)?

The only way to have a clean heart is to crucify the old man of sin (**Romans 6:6; Ephesians 4:22**). We are to become children of God (**Philippians 2:15**). We no longer live, but it is Christ who lives in us (**Galatians 2:20**). We are to feed the spiritual heart with the pure Word of God (**1 Peter 2:2**). Then we are to grow in respect to our salvation through the blood of Jesus (**2 Peter 3:18**). We are to walk as children of light (**Ephesians 5:8-11**).

We are to put off the old man (**Colossians 3:5-11**). We must replace the old man (**Matthew 12:43-45**). We are to strive for the fruit of the Spirit and not the works of the flesh (**Galatians 5:19-23**). When we are in Christ, we are a new creation and old things have passed away (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

Therefore, we need to submit to God and draw near to Him (**James 4:7-8**). We are to submit ourselves under the mighty hand of God (**1 Peter 5:6-9**). If we love Him, we will keep His commandments (**John 14:15**). Then our fellowship will be with God and Jesus (**1 John 1:3**).

We are to possess a pure heart (**1 Timothy 1:5; Titus 2:11-14**). We are to have clean hands and a pure heart (**Psalm 24:3-4**). We are to have a clean heart and a broken and contrite heart (**Psalm 51:10-13, 17**). We are to love one another fervently with a pure heart (**1 Peter 1:22**).

Something to think about!

David B. McElwain