



## **“WHITEWASHED or WASHED WHITE?”**

**By Mary Mayko 1998**

**Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red as crimson, they shall be as wool.”**

**Psalm 51:7 “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”**

“As white as snow? No! Whiter I say!  
When you accept Christ’s blood as the only way  
To be cleansed by the reading of His word,  
Is the very best News we have ever heard!”

We look at freshly fallen snow that has covered everything and making it appear clean and peaceful! Somehow, it seems the world has been clothed in pure white beauty!

But just as snow often covers the ugliness of trash, pollution, buildings in poor repair and a multitude of other ugly things, people, too, can appear as being clean and lovely, yet inside resides a black heart! In Matthew 23:25-28 Jesus sees and condemns the hearts of those who only look clean on the outside! He called them hypocrites, a Greek word that meant “actor,” someone that pretends to be something different than they actually are!

I would imagine that most of us have played that game ourselves at one time or another! Sometimes we want others to think we are smarter or better than we really are! Even as Christians, we hate the thoughts of someone thinking we are not as spiritual as others. We often have thoughts or plots in our heads we do not want anyone else to know about!

How thankful we should be for scriptures like those above that encourage us to “come clean” with God! “Come and reason together!” We sometimes have to admit we have some “sins like scarlet” and we must not try to whitewash them! Jesus’ Blood can make us whiter than snow!

What a relief to be able to come into a relationship with the One who knows everything about us yet loves us and forgives us! [John 4:29] The woman at the well was astonished but responded to His love by gathering up the town people to come and hear this Man who knew “all I ever did!”

What about the sinner woman in Luke 7:37-47 who came into the home of a “big shot”, Simon! She had found the Savior and would let nothing stop her from falling at His feet! Her tears washed His feet where the Host had failed to provide water for cleansing! Her long hair was used as a towel to dry them off! “Sinner!” Others cried out! Yet He who already knew all her sins turned to her and said, “All is forgiven! Go and sin no more.”

Sometimes as Believers we feel so soiled with sins our soul looks like the snow when it gets muddy tire tracks, oil splatters, soot from chimneys just as the snow gets in such a short time after it falls!! “Come now, let us reason together!” When Jesus was washing the disciples’ feet, Peter asked to be washed all over, but the Lord reminded him, he was already washed, and only the soiled part needed cleansing! We are clean though Jesus Christ, but we do need to deal with anything that makes us “dirty”.

After we are Born Again, how do we stay clean? 1 John 1:9 tells us to confess our wrongs to the Lord and accept His cleansing! Ephesians 5:26-27 reminds us that as we read the Word, it instructs us how to walk with the Lord to keep from getting dirty! We do fail at times though and need to confess it and be cleansed. The more we know about what pleases the Lord, the more that desire to do so should grow! He is willing to give us a fresh start in life!

“How delightful and lovely will be the day we hear Him declare,  
You are without spot or wrinkle, you accepted My loving care!  
So enter into My rest as I clothe you in robes of pure white’  
And welcome you into My Presence, what a glorious sight!”

Psalm 32:1 NIV “Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.”

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## “IT’S A NEW YEAR!”

By Rev. J. Kehl Golding

**H** “**HAPPY** is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God.” Psalms 146:5

**A** “**Abide** in Me and I in you, as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.” John 15:4

**P** “Happy is that **PEOPLE** that is in such a case: yea, happy is that **PEOPLE** whose God is the LORD.” Psalms 144:15

**P** “Thou wilt keep him in **PERFECT PEACE** whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.” Isaiah 26:3-4

**Y** “**Yea**, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.” Philippians.3:8

**N** “Let your conversation be without covetousness and be content with such things as ye have: He hath said; I will **NEVER** leave thee **NOR** forsake thee.” Heb.13:5

**E** “Behold, the **EYE** of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy. Psalms 33:18

**W** “Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as **WHITE** as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as **WOOL**.” Isaiah 1:18

**Y** “Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were but **YIELD YOURSELVES** unto the Lord, and enter into His sanctuary, which He hath sanctified forever: and serve the Lord your God; that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you.” 2 Chronicles 30:8

**E** “Righteousness **EXALTETH** a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” Proverbs 14:34

**A** “Rejoice in the Lord **ALWAY**: and **AGAIN** I say, rejoice.” Philippians 4:4

**R** “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us that He might **REDEEM** us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Titus 2:13-14

**2** “No man can serve **TWO** masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other: or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:24

**0** “Ah Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and out stretched arm; and there is **NOTHING [ZERO]** too hard for Thee.” Jeremiah 32:17

**0** “For with God **NOTHING [NO-THING, ZILCH]** shall be impossible.” Luke 1:37

**8** “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened in the Spirit: by which also He went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometimes were disobedient, when once the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was preparing, where in few, that is **EIGHT** souls were saved by water.” 1 Peter 3:18-20

In the Scriptures the number **EIGHT** is the number of new beginnings. The eight souls in Noah’s ark resulted in a new relationship between God and man.

Christ’s crucifixion brought a new thing into the world. Israel no longer had to drag into the synagogue on the last day of the week with a sin offering, repenting of the weeks’ sins and laws that were broken.

The Lord Jesus Christ brought a **NEW** change of order. The first day of the week- **SEVEN** plus **ONE** more- **EIGHT** was the resurrection.

Read John 20:1 and verse 19 to see it was on the first day of the week. There after the disciples and the early church started to worship on the first day of the week. “And upon the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow, and continued his speech until midnight.” Acts 20:7

“Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him that there be no gathering when I come.” 1 Corinthians 16:2

God had done a **NEW THING**. Man now has a Savior, a sin offering once and for all time, he can now live in **VICTORY**. It is 2008, God is still doing **NEW THINGS!!**

This year in prayer, believe Him for your Salvation, for your family, for your finances, and for your body. **NOTHING** is impossible with God!

Have a blessed New Year as you walk with Him! Rev. J. Kehl Golding



## **“REFLECTIONS”**

**By Mary Mayko 1997**

**Psalm 19:14 KJV “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”**

**Psalm 1:2 KJV “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law doth he meditate day and night.”**

**REFLECTIONS!** What do you think of when you hear that word? I am sure many thoughts flood your mind! After all, it has several different meanings! When you look into a mirror you see your own reflection or image. The likeness in the mirror is not really you, it is only a reflection! You have substance and meaning, but as soon as you walk away from the mirror, the reflection is no longer there! Sometimes we “talk” with our reflection in that mirror to criticize, admire or encourage ourselves. We are comfortable with that image in our mirror and we can be very honest as we speak! After all, no one else is there to hear you!

Have you ever looked into a body of water on a clear sunny day? Our face looks softer, smoother, and younger! As we gaze at that **reflection** many thoughts may come to mind. We might be peacefully lost in thoughts when some disturbance destroys the image in the water! Ripples move the water and distort the reflection and nothing is clear now!! That reminds us of our lives! Just when all seems to be moving along smoothly, a sudden event can distort the pictures of our life!

**Reflection!** It also means to think, consider, to ponder, and/or meditate. At the beginning and end of each year, people often begin to reflect on what the past year has meant for them and what the future may hold. What lessons did we gain from the past? What worked or what failed and why? Pleasant memories hopefully are among the struggles most of us face!

What plans or resolutions will we make for the New Year? Some set goals realistically and work diligently to accomplish them. Others will make resolutions based on impulse without reasoning out what the cost will be to keep their commitments. The first group is likely to succeed, at least to some degree. The second group will start with bragging of their goals, and perhaps make an

excellent start. But, they get discouraged easily when the results are not as quick as they desire, or it is much harder than they realized, so they simple give up trying!

Luke 14:27-30 CEV “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. What is the first thing you do? Won’t you sit down and figure out the cost, and if you have enough money to pay for it? Otherwise, you start building the tower, but not be able to finish. Then everyone who sees what is happening will laugh at you. They will say, “You started building, but you could not finish the job!”

The principle is very clear! We are not to be impulsive but to reflect, to ponder, to really consider all the aspects before making a promise to God, to yourself and others. After all, a resolution is really a promise you have made to yourself! God knows the promise and statements you made to Him, and if told, others know them. All these factors make it harder on you if you have not planned wisely!

Sometimes our resolutions reflect our spiritual walk with the LORD! 1 Cor.13:5-6 CEV “Test yourselves and find out if you are really true to your faith. If you pass the test, you will discover that Christ is living in you. But if Christ isn’t living in you, you have failed. I hope you will discover you have not failed!

To accomplish your goals, you must make a sacrifice of time, energy, and other important areas of your life. If, after considering all the aspects of your plans, you decide it is worth the costs and if it is one God can bless, seek Him for the wisdom and strength needed to fulfill them!

God is the God of New Beginnings! When we need a new start in life, He is willing to restore our hope! We will make many choices this year. If you decide not to examine your life and set some goals, you have decided you will not change anything! If your reflections discerns the areas that need a change and ask His help, He will use that desire to help you accomplish it! Joy and peace are the results of wise choices! God bless your New Year!

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

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