

**Warm-up**

What is the best place you ever found to hide when playing hide and seek as a kid? Who found you?

- ▶ We live in God's presence daily. We cannot hide where He will not find us. *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:10 NASB)

**Coming Clean** (vs. 12-14)

*"how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* (v. 14)

When you were a kid did your mom ever insist that you wash your hands before eating dinner? Why did she do that? God was insistent that those who approach Him be holy (clean). He said in Lev. 11:44, *"For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy..."* God is holy and by nature will not tolerate things that tarnish His glory. We cannot hide from Him.

*"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."* (Heb 4:13)

God sees the inside, way past the outside shell or appearance. When God instructed Samuel regarding the selection of a king for Israel He said, *"God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."* Jesus saw right through the outward appearance of the Pharisees, saying, *"You are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."* (Matt. 23:28,)

Notice that verse 14 says that Christ, through His death, cleansed our *conscience*. That's on the inside of us where no one else can see it. I believe that Proverbs 20:27 refers to the conscience when it says, *"The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the innermost parts of his being."* Is your conscience clean?

What we allow to enter our minds through our eyes is an important part of staying clean. Jesus said, *"The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness."* (Matt. 6:22-23)

- ▶ *Human sacrifices (my effort / works) "cleanse the flesh" but CHRIST'S sacrifice (through the Spirit) will "cleanse my conscience".*

**Here's the Deal** (vs. 15-18)

*"...He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that...those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."* (v. 15)

Have you ever negotiated the price of a car with an auto dealer? Did you experience some frustration with the number of variables in play, and perhaps became uneasy during the negotiations? I've had to hold firm to what I consider the non-negotiables (especially the price), and not fall prey to things that are not essential to a good deal (and may increase the price).

Jesus Christ took care of all the negotiations with the Dealer. He went before me and worked out a deal that cost me nothing and gave me everything! But it cost Him everything. *"He paid a debt He did not owe; I owed a debt I could not pay"* is the way one songwriter expressed this. He gave His life for me!

But did it really cost me nothing? Certainly that's true in terms of human effort, but what about in allegiance, in love, in obedience? I owe Him this. That's the deal. If I truly accept Christ's gift of eternal life and an abundant life in Him, my life will change. Fruit will appear on the tree. *"New life will come"* (2 Cor. 5:17).

*"For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; <sup>8</sup> but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned. <sup>9</sup> But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation..."* (Heb. 6:7-9)

- ▶ *Beware of human deals that cost you nothing! But with God's deal, give Him everything!*

### **Scrub for Worship** (vs. 19-23)

*“..he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people” (v. 19)*

It is possible to approach worship too casually? Some years ago it was common for people to “dress for church” with their best, clean clothes; their “Sunday best” as it were. God is holy, and “holy attire” was considered reverent. Yes, I know that 2 Samuel 16:7 says that *“man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart”*, however we must be careful to present our bodies to God as a *“living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship”* (Rom.12:1).

What does “scrub for worship” mean to you? Consider Psalm 24:3-5 (NASB),

<sup>3</sup> *Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place?*

<sup>4</sup> *He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully.*

<sup>5</sup> *He shall receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

▶ *Be sure that your worship posture is clean on both the inside and the outside.*

### **“There, that will do it!”** (vs. 24-26)

*“For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” (v. 24).*

Don't you hate it when a repair on your car is only a “temporary fix”? You drive away knowing that another breakdown is in your future unless you spend a lot more money. Well, God did not mess around with a partial, temporary solution. He sent His Son Jesus on an assignment to fix the problem permanently. I Peter 3:18 says that *“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”* Our broken down sinful state was repaired permanently. We've been given a lifetime guarantee, and beyond!

▶ *Our worship posture should contain the JOY of those who've been redeemed! Hallelujah!*

### **Worth the Wait** (vs. 27-28)

*“So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.” (v. 28)*

Has it ever bugged you that believers will have to “wait” for the second coming of Christ? All men die. All men will be judged. However believers will sit at the “judgment seat of Christ” (2 Cor. 5:10) and be judged as righteous because of Him. Non-believers will face the Great White Throne and be judged according to their deeds (see Rev. 20:11-12). Of course God's desire is for all men to repent (2 Peter 3:9); He judges no one unfairly (James 4:12).

I don't mind waiting for something good, especially when it is free! In this context Romans 8:25 refers to perseverance as “patient enduring”, which we do willingly with our eyes on the prize (also see Phil. 3:14). We “can't wait” to persevere because we love the Lord!

Feel the emotion, the joy of Christ returning for His chosen ones in Matthew 24:

<sup>29</sup> *“But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.** <sup>31</sup> And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and **THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.***

▶ *Knowing that Christ is coming again gives me hope and encourages me to worship Him passionately.*

### **Group Discussion**

1. What part of you tends to get “dirty” on the inside and hinder your worship? (vs. 12-14)
2. What part of God's “deal” in vs. 15-18 grabs you the most?
3. What are some pros and cons of “holy attire”? (vs. 19-23)

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**NEXT TIME: Lesson 6: PERFECTED / Sacrifice – Hebrews 10:1-17**