

The Laver



Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations. Exodus 30:18-21

Washing at the Tabernacle:

The laver was placed between the altar and the congregation, that before the priests came into the presence of God, in the sight of the congregation, they might wash their hands and their feet. What impression was this to make upon the people? It was to show them that every particle of dust must be put away before they could go into the presence of God; for he was so high and holy that unless they did comply with these conditions, death would follow.²⁵

Washing as taught by Jesus:

Jesus spoke to Nicodemus: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old?" Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." True repentance of sin, faith in the merits of Jesus Christ, and baptism into his death, to be raised out of the water to live a new life, are the first steps in the new birth which Christ told Nicodemus he must experience in order to be saved.

The words of Christ to Nicodemus are not only spoken to him, but to every man, woman, and child, that should live in the world. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Paul, the inspired apostle, tells us, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." We are safe in following the example of Christ.²⁶

Washing as it applies to Christians:

The Lord requires his ministers to be pure and holy, rightly to represent the principles of truth in their own lives, and by their example to bring others up upon a high level. He requires all who profess to be his chosen people, though they are not teachers of the truth, to be careful to preserve personal cleanliness and purity, also cleanliness and order in their houses and upon their premises. We are examples to the world, living epistles known and read of all men. God requires all who profess godliness, and especially those who teach the truth to others, to abstain from all appearance of evil.²⁷

All the washings and sprinklings enjoined in the ceremonial law were lessons in parables, teaching the necessity of a work of regeneration in the inward heart for the purification of the soul dead in trespasses and sins, and also the necessity of the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit.²⁸

What was the Laver made from?

Exodus 38:8

What is compared to a mirror in the Bible?

James 1:23-25

The women gave up what they had used for their outward beauty. What is more important than decorating ourselves with jewelry or fancy clothing?

1 Timothy 2:9, 10

What does washing at the Laver represent to us as Christians?

Psalms 51:7, 9

Acts 22:16

How was Jesus baptized?

Matthew 3:16

Jesus came up out of the water. This is baptism by immersion, putting the whole body under the water. Baptism symbolizes the washing away of sin.

What else does Paul compare baptism to?

Romans 6:3, 4; Colossians 2:12

Dead, buried, raised up to a new life. The former person doesn't exist anymore. This is what baptism represents—a total change to being a different person.

When Jesus ate His last meal with the disciples before His crucifixion, He washed their feet. What did He want them to understand by this?

John 13:10

Baptism is like a total bath, cleaning everything. Washing the feet represents cleaning what has gotten dirty since the bath. Since we are weak, sinful humans, we make mistakes and need to be forgiven and cleansed often.

How does Jesus cleanse us on a continual basis?

John 15:3; Ephesians 5:25-27

What are two areas that need cleansing and purifying and what do they represent in practical life?

James 4:8

What two things does God do for us when we confess our sin?

1 John 1:9 *He is faithful and just to _____ us our sin and to _____ us from all unrighteousness.*

The two articles of furniture in the Courtyard—the Altar of Burnt Offering and the Laver—symbolize what 1 John 1:9 describes: forgiveness and cleansing. These two actions that God takes on our account are both parts of Justification. Our past sin and guilt are pardoned; we are cleansed and prepared for a better future.

Don't you want the hope of a better future? Accept Jesus as your Savior today and walk with Him. He will cleanse you and save you.