

THREE—FOLD CLEANSING

By Keith Greer

For a few moments let us consider the "**three-fold**" cleansing that is available to the alien sinner who is in need of the salvation offered in Christ.

Our consciences. "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." {Hebrews 10:22} How does this "cleansing" help our consciences? The sinner can now have a "clear" conscience because the blood of Christ has removed the condemnation of sin. One stands acquitted before the God of heaven, "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." {Romans 5:9}. Sin is a heavy burden to carry and weighs down our conscience knowing we are guilty. The cleansing blood of Christ removes this burden.

Our ways. "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!" {Psalm 119:9,10} By taking God's word into our hearts and making proper application to its teaching one can mend his ways to walk in righteousness. This "cleansing" takes us down a different path and corrects the wrong paths that were leading us away from God. Now we can draw closer to God. "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." {James 4:7,8}

Personal cleansing. "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." {2 Corinthians 7:1} How does one "cleanse" himself from the filthiness of the flesh? By separating one's self from sin—period! This is exactly the admonition to the saints in Corinth, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. Paul earlier wrote that whoever we "yield" ourselves to we become their servants—sin or righteousness, Romans 6:16-18. One's personal cleansing is a result of our determination to leave the ways of sin and the world and to chart a different course. Repentance takes one down this road to obtain eternal salvation from our loving Father. Dear reader, have you received this "**three-fold cleansing**?" ***