

Text: Various

Title: Lord's Table: Spring Cleaning

Truth: Regular spiritual cleanup is needed in our lives. Jesus is the master cleaner, but we join His work.

Date/Location: Sunday April 7, 2024 at FBC

Hymns

501 Nothing Between

553 Prone to Wander

476 I Surrender All

498 Whiter than Snow

494 Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Introduction

Spring cleaning is a “deep cleaning” operation more thorough than the usual, say weekly, cleaning. You may do it in the garage, the basement, your desk, the whole house, etc.

A Persian New Year ritual is the Nowruz which happens on the first day of spring. In Iran they have a practice called khaneh tekani which means “shaking the house.”

Remember also before Passover the Jews were commanded to remove from their homes all leaven. This is a sort of spring cleaning (Exodus 12:15, 19).

You have seen volunteers picking up trash along the highways—for which I thank the Lord because it looks so much better and more natural. You have heard about volunteer projects to clean up a park or similar public location. I commend to you these sorts of things—starting in your own home.

Today I am thinking of the opportunity of spring plus the Lord's Table to take some time to think about spiritual cleanup. As much as we may have accumulated “stuff” and dust bunnies over the winter, we also can accumulate sins, habits, thoughts, and practices that need to be cleaned out of our lives. Hopefully your life does not require a hazmat team and has not become a superfund site.

I. Some Bible Texts about Cleaning Our Your Life

Hebrews 12:1 let us **lay aside** every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

James 1:21 Therefore **lay aside** all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Eph. 4:22 that you **put off**, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

Col 3:5-7 Therefore **put to death** your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

Col 3:8-10 But now you yourselves are to **put off** all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

Matt 7:5 First **remove** the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Romans 6:13 And **do not present** your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

1 Cor. 5:6-7 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Therefore **purge out** the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse** your hands, you sinners; and **purify** your hearts, you double-minded.

- 2 Tim. 2:20-21 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. ²¹ Therefore if anyone **cleanses** himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.
- 2 Cor. 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us **cleanse** ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- 1 Peter 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,
- 1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him **purifies** himself, just as He is pure.

II. The Best Cleaning Agent

Have you ever searched for the best cleaning tools and chemicals?

- 1 John 1:7, 9 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son **cleanses** us from all sin. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.
- 2 Peter 1:9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was **cleansed** from his old sins [passive verb “was cleansed” : by Christ].
- Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and **purify** for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
- Acts 15:7-9 Peter rose up and said to them: “Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by

giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, ⁹ and made no distinction between us and them, **purifying their hearts** by faith.

Hebrews 9:13-14 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?

Eph 5:26-27 that He might sanctify and **cleanse** her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, **not having spot or wrinkle** or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Mark 1:40-42 Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me **clean**." ⁴¹ Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; **be cleansed**." ⁴² As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.

III. Let us Give Thanks for Our Cleansing

Luke 17:12-19 The Lord Jesus **cleansed** the ten lepers and one returned to give thanks.

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