

WHITER THAN SNOW

Isaiah 1:10-18

Might we learn today how to be spiritually renewed.

I. REMEMBER (10-15)

A. PIETY IS IMPORTANT (10-14)

1. Be Attentive (10a)
2. Be Alarmed (10b)
3. Be Aware: Insincere religious ritual is repulsive to God!
 - a. Their sacrifices: Unpleasant (11-12)
 - b. Their offerings: Worthless (13a)
 - c. Their incense: Abominable (13b)
 - d. Their assemblies: Unendurable (13c)
 - e. Their feasts: Burdensome (14)
4. Be Assured
 - a. Sin can infiltrate any sacred service
 - b. "Inward righteousness must accompany outward ritual for that ritual to mean anything to God." [John A. Martin, "Isaiah" in Bible Knowledge Commentary – OT, p. 1031]
 - c. Ritualistic religion is hypocritical and must be avoided

B. PRAYER CAN BE HINDERED (15)

1. Your Appeal: Passionate and plentiful prayers
2. God's answer: I will not see nor answer
3. God's accusation
 - a. You have bloody hands
 - b. You are covered in sin's guilt
 - c. See Psalm 66:18 and Prov. 1:27-29

II. REVIVE (16-17)

A. PERSONALLY: Right attitudes toward God

1. Get Right (16a)
 - Wash until you are truly clean
2. Discontinue Evil (16b)
 - a. Quit offending a holy and observant God
 - b. Quit committing sins

Over please >

B. PUBLICLY: Right actions toward others

1. Be Selfless: Learn to do good
2. Be Informed: Seek justice
3. Be Involved
 - a. Reprove (restrain) the ruthless
 - b. Defend the orphan
 - c. Plead for the widow

III. **REFRESH** (18)

A. THE COURTROOM AND CONTEST

- God commands us to come and discuss our condition

B. THE CORRUPTION AND CONDEMNATION

1. Conclusion: It's been determined that your sins are scarlet and crimson ... sins of the deepest dyes
2. Conviction: Your sins are murderous and therefore require the death sentence
3. Question: Will you acknowledge that your sins are such?
 - If we're ever going to be clean we must admit we're dirty

C. THE COMPASSION AND CONVERSION

1. The guilt is removed
 - Only God can clear the charges against us! - See Romans 8:1
2. The stain is transformed

CONCLUSION:

Let us, like David, be ready to repent and rely on God' gracious mercy.

“Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

- Psalm 51:7

For 2018 let's start and stay fresh ... whiter than snow!

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