

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – February 28, 2010

Whiter Than Snow....

“Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; Wash me and I will be whiter than snow” – Psalm 51:7

It happened in Brenham this past week, just as the weatherman said it would. A child’s delight---a driver’s nuisance---big fat flakes of snow plummeting earthward from the heavens and blanketing the ground. The event became the object of live newscasts, causing joy for some, anxiety for others, and for some a sense of wonderment, as they pondered what all the fuss was about. And as quickly as it appeared it was gone, the excitement and anxiety fading into the past. The fact that we were visited by a brief appearance of the white fluffy precipitation does bring to mind however, that snow is referenced several places in the Scriptures. It is used comparatively to help us understand the qualities of holiness, perfection, and glory. In Daniel and Revelation God’s garments and His hair are described as being “white as snow”. In Mark, at the Transfiguration of Jesus’ His clothes are described as “exceedingly white, like snow”; and the angel at the empty tomb in Matthew’s account of the Resurrection is described in like manner: “his clothes were as white as snow”. The comparative illustration of snow is also used to underline the absolute and complete nature of God’s power and judgment, as in Exodus when Moses demonstrates God’s power putting his hand in his garment and removing it and his hand becomes “leprous, like snow” or as recorded in Numbers when Miriam is disciplined for her speaking against God’s servant and “suddenly she was leprous, white as snow”.

The absolute nature of these comparisons and illustrations form a backdrop for us when we read from the Prophet Isaiah: “Though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.” What a wonderful contrast! God grants us absolute forgiveness and clothes us with the purity and holiness of Christ. How greatly we are cherished...how wonderful to be His chosen ones!

King David found the same mercy even in the depth of his sins. Psalm 51 is penned at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit after David's great sin had been exposed by the Prophet Nathan. David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. He had murdered her husband to cover it up...but God exposed it all. Instead of death and damnation God offers David forgiveness and salvation. "Wash me and I will be whiter than snow", David writes, and so it was....and so it is....and so it shall be. Through Christ Jesus, our Savior, we have forgiveness of all sin...no matter how great. Through Christ Jesus, we shine with the glory of eternal righteousness and we aspire to the full expression of that glory in the world to come. Whiter than snow...that's what we are in the sight of God, for Christ became sin for us and by His death and resurrection He has made us to be His righteousness.

- ❖ Remember: You are God's cherished and chosen people. Washed clean through the waters of Holy Baptism, God sees us as His holy people. To Him we are whiter than snow.

- ❖ Remember: Others have not yet heard the Good news. Let us pray that God would move us to answer the call and rise to the challenge of being His witnesses to this world that others might also come to rejoice that through faith in Christ before God they too are "whiter than snow".

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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