

Wednesday Word, August 24, 2016: The High Priest who Purged our Sins

Hebrews 1:3, "Who by Himself purged our sins."

What a stunning statement. Jesus, our High Priest, purged our sins. In other words, He removed them! That's the kind of High Priest we need. Let any other religious leaders try to do this and their efforts will come to nothing. Buddha could not take away the sins of his people. Mohammed didn't eradicate the sins of his followers. But, Christ Jesus, our High Priest, by Himself, purged our sins.

When Jesus purged the sins of His people, it was the fulfillment of that which had been pre-figured in the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:30). On that day, Israel was temporarily cleansed from her sins. Now, fast forward to Calvary. There, Jesus, by Himself, permanently purged our sins. He is the fulfillment and the reality of the great Day of Atonement.

But, how did He purge our sins? By His teaching? No! By His Doctrine? No! By His Spirit? No! He purged our sins, "By Himself." What an excellent word! "Himself." Some Bible versions leave it out, but it is Gospel Truth. Take these verses, for example. "Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:22). "By His own blood, He entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us (Hebrews 9:12). "....how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience (Hebrews 9:14)?"

By Himself, He purged our sins. All that He had and all that He was, He gave as our ransom.

By Himself, He purged our sins. What power! Think about it, He purged our sins before we had ever committed them. Before we had ever sinned, he fully exercised His ministry of purging. What authority, ability and grace! What a Saviour!

There's an ancient fable that tells of how Hercules cleaned out the Augean stable. But, think about it,... that was an easy task compared to the purging of our sins. The stench of our sins was fouler than the most putrid of dunghills, Yet Jesus purged our sins, by Himself.

Who was this man, this Priest, who purged our sins? He is the heir of all things. He is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of his person (Hebrews 1:2-3). He is the eternal God made flesh (1 Timothy 3:16). He is the one who was and is uniquely God and Man. He is not only our High Priest but also our Prophet and King. He offered Himself. The entire Christ was offered by Christ Himself!

He was High Priest, the Lamb, the Altar and the Sacrifice. It was His blood, His life, which was poured out. Because of that purging of our sins, by Jesus, our High Priest, both God and the believer can righteously approach each other and meet face to face. The distance between us has been destroyed. It has disappeared.

The sins are gone.

The guilt has gone.

The condemnation has gone.

The separation has gone.

The one sacrifice has been made and accepted. Christ, by Himself, purged our sins. It is finished!

Our approach to God is now secure. The High Priest has purged our sins. The door to eternity is open. The High Priest has purged our sins. The veil is torn from the top to the bottom. The High Priest has purged our sins. The dread of God has been removed, the hiding is over, because our priest, by Himself has purged our sins.

And that's the Gospel Truth!