

TELL THE TRUTH

February 29, 2004

"You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbor."

Exodus 20:16

I. 1 John 1:6-7 - Honesty is what brings the cleansing of the Lord.

A. The must of Cleansing

1. Acts 3:19 (TLB)- *"Now change your mind and attitude to God and turn to him so he can cleanse away your sins and send you wonderful times of refreshment from the presence of the Lord."*
2. God will refresh what we let Him clean.
 - a. **Did you know -- In 1842 the first bathtub was denounced as a "luxurious and democratic vanity". Boston made it unlawful to bathe, except on doctor's prescription. In 1843 Philadelphia made bathing illegal between November 1 and March 15. How tragic most Christians have adopted a similar schedule of spiritual cleansing. We would rather put up with the stench of our unconfessed sins than come clean before God!**
 - b. During a tour of a large manufacturing plant, a visitor noticed a man using a fiery torch of high intensity to work on huge slabs of steel. Operating from a blueprint on a nearby table, a pointer traced the pattern and then by a clever system of levers enlarged the design as it was burned into the metal. There were times, however, when the flame would not make any impression. When this happened, a chemical substance was applied to the resisting patch, and immediately the cutting could be resumed. The worker explained that although the torch was able to go through clean steel 8 inches thick, if it encountered the slightest film of rust on the surface, the flame would not penetrate it. The Bible-believing visitor remarked, "It struck me forcefully that this is a picture of the Christian. The Holy Spirit is seeking to produce in us God's perfect design. If the area He is seeking to work has been cleansed, He is able to continue His efforts; but if we become carnal or backslidden, His work of shaping us is hindered until the area in question has been thoroughly cleansed."

B. THE MEANING OF CLEANSING - 1 John 1:9

1. Forgiveness and cleansing are two different things.
 - **Forgiveness is instant, cleansing is progressive.**
 - Forgiveness deals with the act, cleansing deals with the cause.
 - **Forgiveness is granted, cleansing is applied.**

- Forgiveness is the result of the Blood of Christ, cleansing is the result of the Body of Christ.
- **Forgiveness takes away the guilt, cleansing takes away the sin.**

C. THE METHOD OF CLEANSING - there are a lot of things in scripture that causes cleansing.

1. The fear of the Lord will cleanse you. Psalm 19:9

2. The Word of God will cleanse you - John 15:3

3. Walking in honest relationship with another will cleanse us - 1 John 1:6-7

a. Fellowship with one another will cleanse us. Truth produces fellowship - fellowship causes cleansing

b. You can tell when you have enter into real fellowship because it will bathe you, it will cleanse you.

4. 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 - The Corinthian Church had leaven in it. Leaven is used in the Bible to symbolize insincerity and Hypocrisy.

a. Here Paul warned that they were boasting beyond their actual Spiritual condition.

b. Leaven causes something to look bigger than it actually is - Leaven is the cause of Air holes in bread - Leaven inflates the dough.

c. The Corinthian Church had leaven in it - It appeared to be more than it was its true moral and Spiritual condition was less than they advertised.

d. God will accept a small offering but never an inflated one.

5. God can't give you something that you are pretending to have already, He can't change you into somebody that your pretending to be already.

a. 2 Timothy 3:13 - If your in a bad place and you pretend to be in a good place you then keep yourself from the help that you need.

b. Genesis 32:24-28