



Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

As the snow fell this last week, the beauty of it amazes me. A purity and whiteness that's undefiled. I thought of David in Psa. 51 when he appealed to God for forgiveness, **"Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."** To be cleansed by God and be whiter than snow is an awesome thought that I can't comprehend. My mind focused on that thought. **"Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool."** (Isa. 1:18)

"Whiter than snow" shifted my mind to Jesus. **"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."** (II Cor. 5:21) For us to stand before God, pure and undefiled, He became our sin. He took our stains, our dirty, vile and filthy lives, and laid all that on Himself and He died our death. Jesus paid it all! God is holy, pure and undefiled and it took His pure and holy Son to make us "*whiter than snow*" before Him.

I continued looking at the snow and my thoughts centered around the covenant we remember every first day of the week. A covenant is an agreement, a binding will taken on by God that He will not break. When we entered Jesus through baptism, He became our righteousness before God. **"For I will be merciful to their iniquities and I will remember their sins no more."** (Heb. 8:12) *Merciful!* That's what God's covenant speaks to us. He "*remembers our sins no more*", what a blessed thought. My life is full of countless sins. I can remember many of them, and I don't care to remember any of them! How stained and ugly I was in the eyes of my Maker. Blemished, defiled and not able to approach Him because of my defilement. I was clothed with Jesus in baptism (Gal. 3:27), and now my sins are forgotten, the stains are "*whiter than snow*" and I stand holy and blameless before Him. I remembered I did nothing for that. I cannot earn my standing before God. In fact, we were the cause for Jehovah having to kill His only Son for us! When He cleanses, it is complete to the utmost. We stand in that covenant.

I walked outside and picked up a handful of snow. I stared at it for a brief moment. I could eat it if I wanted to because it was pure and undefiled. No one had touched it, nothing had walked across it and defiled it. That's exactly how God views my sins. That is a gift beyond thought. **"...but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."** (Rom. 6:23) "*A free gift of God.*" My mind reflected on the thought. I realize there is nothing free. There is always a cost for someone. For my sins to be made white as snow, to never be remembered before God, He gave the ultimate price. It cost Him His dearly, beloved Son and offered to me as a free gift from Him. That's a love I can't understand.

As I looked at the snow, my mind shifted to others around me. I realized no one has to lose their soul! It's not God's choice. He gave the free gift. People don't have to destroy one another with hate and sinful attitudes. It's not God's choice. We have every reason to assemble and thank our Father for His "*free gift.*" We proclaim the death of His Son every first day of the week. For some, that's not their choice.

What do you think about your standing before God? Are you pure and undefiled because of Christ or have you wandered back into sin and become defiled? If one keeps themselves defiled, it will lead them into becoming an unbeliever. (Titus 1:15) Think about it!!!

Brent