

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

Do you pay close attention to the songs we sing? “*Jesus Paid It All*” is a wonderful song with these words: “*Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*” Why do we sing about a “*crimson stain*”? Isaiah said, “ ‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the Lord, ‘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)

Have you ever attempted to take a piece of crimson or scarlet colored material and try to dye it white? **It’s not possible!** One can never, ever get out that dark red color.

When we read or sing songs like the above, it should remind us that we cannot get rid of the stain of sin on our own. No matter how good you try to be, no matter how many things you do in the name of the Lord, no matter what you attempt, you cannot remove the stain of sin! Sin is as obvious and defiling in the eyes of God as is our trying to dye crimson/scarlet white. Brethren have believed if they follow correct rituals in worship, live good lives for the Lord and be a good person, they will be right with the Lord. Living good lives is the **result** of our being cleansed, not to be cleansed (Eph. 2:10). Living good lives cannot take away the crimson stain!

When one begins their walk with the Lord, repentance is in order! That means a change of direction in thought and action but that does not negotiate our salvation. It’s where we begin. Our crying out and being joined with Jesus in baptism (I Pet. 3:21/Rom. 6:3-7) is where we put our faith in God to cleanse us from our sins through the blood of Christ. The death, the blood of our Lord, is what washes us clean in His sight. The blood of Jesus can take that scarlet stain, that ruined, sin filled person and make them as white as snow in the presence of God! That’s what remission of sins is all about! Read carefully Luke 24:46-47 and Acts 2:37-38. We are talking about the worst kind of sins we can think of – sexually immoral, swindlers, liars, drunkards, and the list goes on - are forgiven completely in Christ and the horrible, defiling stain is removed.

Wonder why some can’t forgive others? Because they think they are the pure ones by their own practice and don’t see their own defilement in the eyes of God. They don’t see their stain but only see their own righteousness compared to the stain of another. What is worse, their own defilement is never removed.

It was so fitting that Jesus had a scarlet robe placed on Him during His sufferings (Matt. 27:28). “*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.* Thanks be to God! Think about it!!!

Brent