

Washed

*Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and
dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
Revelation 1:5b-6*

Right in the beginning of the glorious Revelation of Jesus Christ, we are met with this reminder of the powerful and literal image of the blood of Christ washing us from our sins. The New Testament writers, and especially the Apostle John, are very regular in their use of this highly symbolic description of the power of blood to “wash” sins away. Taken only in human terms, the expression sounds contradictory. How can blood wash something away? When Moses sprinkled the blood on all the elements of the tabernacle worship, as well as on all the people (see Hebrews 9:18-22), the natural mind would hardly look at that as cleansing. The natural man would say that all those things and people needed a good cleaning with soap and water. Yet the mind and heart touched by the Spirit of God with His gospel finds the imagery very literal when it comes to the elimination of the burden of sin, which permeated the soul when without Christ, and brings the awareness of uncleanness to the conscience of the redeemed. To be washed in the blood of the Lamb, knowing the full power of forgiveness that cleanses the soul, is comprehended by the spirit that has been enlightened by the truth of God’s word to be very literal indeed. That His personal sacrifice in shedding His blood on our behalf, while we were yet sinners, is the one and only remedy for sin is freeing and cleansing to the transformed mind and spirit. Let us not be ashamed to use the language of redemption to describe the marvelous work of our loving Lord in washing our lives and giving us new standing and hope in Him.

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