

## THE WASHING OF REGENERATION

The order of the Greek text of Titus 3:5 is different than most English texts – “*Not by works of righteousness which we did, but according to the mercy of Him, He saved us, by washing of regeneration and renewing of Holy Spirit.*”

In this verse, Paul emphasized that **all members of the human race are saved** according to (*kata+acc. divine norm and standard*) of God’s mercy by the washing of regeneration of Holy Spirit and not according to man’s merit.

This means that all of mankind are saved according to the divine norm and standard of mercy and the supernatural work of regeneration by Holy Spirit and by human works because all members of the human race are under the guilt of the 13 judicial charges of Adam’s original sin (AOS) (Rom.5: 12-21; 1 Cor.15: 22). “*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.*” (Rom.5:12; Gen.2:17)

**Mercy emphasizes the God side of salvation while washing of regeneration emphasizes the man side of salvation (Eph.2:1-10).**

**This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Washing (loutron) of Regeneration (palingenesia).**

**1. Washing was used different ways in the Bible. *The idea of washing is for the purpose of cleansing or purifying (katharismos).***

We will mention four of interest in NT.

- Physical washing (John 13:10)
- Ceremonial washing (Matt.23:25-26; Heb.9:8-15)
- Symbolic washing (Eph.5:26)
- *Spiritual washing* (**Titus 3:5** / louo - washing; apolouo - washing off; **loutron** – laver or wash bowl)

(Wash bowl or basin was used in temple as part of shadow Christology: Ex.30:17-21; Heb.10:19-22.)

**2. The spiritual washing is the one of interest to our lesson because it is related to grace salvation – “*And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*” (1 John 1:7b)**

“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Heb.9:14)

“And such were some of you; but you were **washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, **and in the Spirit of our God.**” (1 Cor.6:11)

The old hymn asks, “What will wash away my sins?” And then gives the answer, “Nothing but the blood of Jesus!”

What does it mean for an unbeliever to have his sins washed away? It means to be cleansed from all of the 13 judicial charges of AOS by the spiritual death of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.6:11).

**3. Spiritual washing regeneration was taught in the OT by shadow Christology and in the NT by historical Christology (Psa.51: 1-2, 7; Rev.7: 14; 22:14).**

This is important when studying Paul's testimony of salvation to Pharisaical Jews regarding Ananias' comment to him, "And now why do you delay (Paul was already saved / 22:7-13)? Arise anistemi / a.a.ptc), and be baptized (baptizo / a.m.impv), and wash away (apolouo / a.m.impv / 1 Cor.6: 11) your sins, calling (epikaleo/ a.m.ptc) on His name." (Acts 22:16) It was not teaching baptismal regeneration or work salvation.

Ananias was encouraging Paul to publicly identify himself as a believer with Jesus as the messianic Savior (1 Tim.1: 15). Messianic water baptism identified Paul with the Christians he had once persecuted (John 1:29-34; Acts 9:21; 22:3-5; 26:9-12; Gal.1:13-14).

**4. Regeneration is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit whereby God becomes the legal Father of the Church age believer (adoption) on the basis of faith in the gospel of grace salvation (1 Pet.1: 23; 1 John 5:1-5).**

**Regeneration is 1 of 8 works of the Holy Spirit of salvation (John 16:7-11).**

Adoption (Rom.8: 14-17)

Baptism (1 Cor.12: 13)

Indwelling (1 Cor.6: 19-20)

Regeneration (Titus 3:5)

Sanctification (2 Thess.2: 13-14)

Seal and earnest (Eph.1: 13-14; 4:30)

Spiritual gift (1 Cor.12: 4-11)

Spiritual life (Eph.2: 4-5,18)

**Four different Greek words are used with Regeneration.**

- Gennao another (born from above) (John 3:3-8, 31)
- Anagennao (born again) (1 Pet.1:3, 23)
- Artigennetos (new born) (1 Pet.2:2)
- Palingenesia (born again) (Titus 3:5) - The Greek word (*genesis*) refers to genealogy and lineage birth (Matt.1:18). The first book of the Bible is named by this Greek word (Genesis).

**5. All three members of the Godhead are involved in regeneration of Church age believers.**

- Father (1 Pet.1:3-5; John 1:13)
- Son (John 1:11-12; Gal.3:26)
- Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)