



White-Washed or Washed-White?



To say that we live in a religious America goes without saying. Churches are almost everywhere. We are told that there are some 800 churches in a 20 mile radius in the Grand Rapids, MI area, but buildings are not churches. A Scriptural church is one described in Matthew 18:20, with our Lord Jesus Christ worshipped as God, Savior and Lord. Note the following sequence of events in Scripture revealing incidents in the lives of saved and unsaved individuals:

I. WHITENED SEPULCHURES:

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whitened sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness.” -Matthew 23:27

- What a description of our Lord as to religious unsaved people!
 - A case of people who were white-washed, but not washed white through the blood of Jesus Christ – 1 Peter 1:18-19
 - Yes, an example of people who were brain-washed, but not blood washed in the finished work of Christ on the cross.
 - Anyone climbing the ladder of good works to heaven will one day find the last rung to be missing. Jesus is the way – the only way. –John 14:6

II. ENLIGHTENED SAINTS:

“And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” - Luke 24:31

- The Emmaus disciples knew and loved the Lord, but were short on knowing what had been promised as to His death, burial and resurrection – Luke 24:25-27
 - And so today, the challenge in the Scriptures is for truly blood washed – born again Saints to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ -2 Peter 3:18. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom – Proverbs 9:10, not the end. We today have the completed Bible, and in its storehouse of spiritual wealth (1 Corinth. 2:9-10) available to every believer as we search the Scriptures to find God’s plan for mankind in the days to come.
 - Someone said that a Christian on his or her knees in prayer and studying God’s Word can see more than a philosopher standing on his tip-toes.

III. FRIGHTENED BELIEVERS:

“And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.” –Mark 16:5

- Frightened or literally UTTERLY AMAZED. Wouldn’t you be too, to see a body missing and the grave clothes neatly in place? Also, to see an angel sitting there so much as saying, “And that’s that!”
 - Born again believers serve a resurrected Christ as God (Titus 2:13), and who is coming back for His own (John 14:1-3), believers who have a completed Bible to read revealing that our bodies will be resurrected (1 Corinth. 15:51-57) and changed like His own glorious body – Philippians 3:20. Everything else, just as in the case of His grave clothes, will be left behind. That includes cars, houses, bank accounts, etc. AMEN!

TO LOSE YOUR WEALTH IS MUCH TO LOSE,
TO LOSE YOUR HEALTH IS MORE,
TO LOSE YOUR SOUL IS SUCH A LOSS,
THAT ALL ETERNITY CANNOT RESTORE.

By Rev. Charles Svoboda



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