

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
April 1, 2020

“WASHING FOR LIFE”

“Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil.” Isaiah 1:16

We've now been told a bazillion times that the key to not getting infected with the corona virus is regular hand washing and refraining from touching your face. I don't know about you, but what these directions have done is to point out to me just how often I touch my face. I can't help myself. It must be some sort of instinct! I am washing my hands more than I would be in normal times, but I know that I'm not washing them near enough. Yes, washing is vital for maintaining good health. Washing is vital for maintaining life. Being that the passage above was written by the Prophet Isaiah more than 2,700 years ago the washing that is being commanded is not one that will protect us from any worldly virus, it's a washing for protection against the virus of sin...the only virus that leads to eternal death. The virus that everyone has already contracted. The context of this command of God is that He is speaking to His “Chosen People”, the people of Judah and Jerusalem in Israel. They have rebelled against God by rejecting His ways despite all of His blessings. They're a disobedient child that is deserving of death. They continue going through the motions of worship but behave as if God and His Word does not exist. My how things haven't changed much in 27 centuries! Our Lord, their Lord, is calling them back; back to Himself and back to living by His wisdom. He's calling them to wash themselves to remove their sin and sinfulness, and to spiritually keep on doing it, over and over again. This command predates the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and even its Old Testament origins. There was in that time though customs of ritual washing and cleansing. Today we have the benefit...the eternal benefit...of Baptism. We as the baptized children of God in Christ Jesus have been washed clean of our sins in the blood of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We're not called to do it again and again, one baptism is sufficient as it carries in it the power of Almighty God, but rather to daily remember and live in our baptismal grace while living out our calling to be God's obedient and faithful children. By following God's wisdom and commands, we can and will be a blessing to those around us, and to the nations that we are planted in. I said a couple of Sundays ago that we have access to the power that can bring about an end to this global pandemic. Are we using that power? Are we exercising our call to humbly confess our sin and sinfulness, to repent and seek the face of God in prayer and in His Word, crying out on behalf of all the suffering? Remember, if we do that God has promised to hear us from heaven, to forgive our sins and to move His hand in healing our land. Seems to me we all have something to do today to fill our time with meaningful work.