

THE LAST BEATITUDE, Rev. 22:14

The Revised Version here is preferred to the KJV.

"They that wash their robes,"

not "do his commandments".

The idea that partaking of the tree of life or entering the celestial city depends on doing God's commandments has no more hope than the dreary thunders of Sinai; while the condition of robes washed white in the blood of the Lamb has the gracious ring of New Testament music.

one in 12:7]
The 1st of 7 Beatitudes in Rev., beginning w/1:3;
 This is almost the last word to men from heaven.

I. THE BLESSING OF SPIRITUAL CLEANSING

1. The need of cleansing.

A. Because of sin

B. Ps. 19:12, "Who can understand his errors?

Cleanse thou me from secret faults."

2. The provision for our cleansing - *(Kinship between blood*

A. Through the blood of Jesus. *of the Martyrs and the blood of Jesus)*

B. Heb. 9:14, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

3. The Way of Cleansing.

A. Confession of sin, I Jn. 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

B. Prayer, Ps. 51:7, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

C. Through the Word of God, Ps. 119:9, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."

Jn. 15:3, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

D. Repentance, Isa. 1:16, "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil."

E. Faith, Matt 8:2, "And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean."

Lk. 4:27, "Many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elias, and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian."

See Rev. 7:14, "They have washed their robes..."

4. The Blessing of Cleansing according to Scripture
Ps. 51:7 - "and I shall be clean... whiter than
Isa. 1:18 - "though your sins are like scarlet, ^{they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become as wool."} snow"

II. Right to the Tree of Life

1. Identity of the tree of life.

A. Figurative reference to the eternal, immortal life of the redeemed, and especially of Jesus Christ Who is our Life.

B. Opposite to the tree of the cross.

Galatians 3:13, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

I Peter 2:24, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:"

C. Opposite to the tree of death.

Think how much sorrow death has brought to the world, and you can imagine how much blessing we have through the tree of Life.

2. The Tree of Life in the Bible

A. In the Garden of Innocence. Gen, ch. 3

Paradise was lost in a garden

B. In the Garden of Guilt,

God drove out Adam and Eve and "placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." Gen. 3:24

C. In the City of Redemption.

Paradise was regained in a City.

Rev. 2:7, "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

3. Only the cleansed ones have access to this life.

- III. Entrance into the City (Gr = "Πολις," = city-state
(All of Rev. chap. 21, men-
tioned 10 Times)
1. Heaven is a society, a community, a polity.
 - A. Heaven is a city, not a siesta
 - B. Heb. 12:22, "But ye are come unto mount Sion,
and unto the city of the living God,
the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable
company of angels,
and to God the Judge of all."
Rev. 21:2, "And I John saw the holy city,
new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."
 2. A City is a symbol of security & permanence.
Heb. 11:10, "He looked for a city which hath
foundations, whose builder and maker is God."
 3. Christ is the Door,
Jn. 10:1,2, "Verily, verily, I say unto you,
He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold,
but climbeth up some other way, the same is a
thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the
door is the shepherd of the sheep. I am the door
of the sheep; by me if any man enter in, he shall
be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."
 4. Only the cleansed ones have the entrance
into the celestial city
The soiled life has no place in the stainless city
 5. Their beatitude is the blessing of eternal salvation.

Max. Hts. B.C. - 12/27/87
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H.M.B.C. - 5/26/57

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.

In the silent midnight watches
List — thy bosom door!

How it knocketh, knocketh, knocketh,
Knocketh evermore!

Say not, 'Tis thy pulse's beating;

'Tis thy heart of sin;

'Tis thy Savior knocks, and crieth,
"Rise and let me in."

Death comes on with reckless footsteps

To the hall and hut;

Think you death will tarry, knocking,
When the door is shut?

Jesus waiteth, waiteth, waiteth,

But the door is fast;

Grieved, away thy Savior goeth,

Death breaks in at last.

Then 'tis time to stand entreatings

Christ to let thee in;

At the gate of heaven beating,

Waiting for thy sin.

Nay, alas! thou guilty creature,

Hast thou then forgot?

Jesus waited long to know thee,

Now He knows thee not.