

## Parson to Person

### **Guest Speaker: Daryl Kraft (Jesus Makes Us Clean)**

*“Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, are You washing my feet?’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.’ Peter said to Him, ‘You shall never wash my feet!’ Jesus answered him, ‘If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me’” (John 13:1–8 NKJV).*

Today Brenda and I took a little time off to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thank you for the little break!

As a blessing to you, I have asked Daryl Kraft to open the word this weekend. I am certain (as always) that his message will be an encouragement to you all.

The text he has chosen (above) will be developed in order to show you the following 5 key truths.

- 1) As believers in Christ we are “Graced”—instead of guilty.
- 2) As believers in Christ we are “Clean”—instead of dirty.
- 3) As believers in Christ we are “Purified”—instead of thinking, “I’ve got a long way to go!”
- 4) As believers in Christ we are “Perfect”—instead of feeling like a failure.
- 5) As believers in Christ we “Give God Praise”—instead of dwelling in our shortcomings or feeling as though we are a disappointment to God!

All of the above truths are provided to every believer as the result of Jesus’ propitiatory sacrifice. We as believers have been given grace! We have been provided the ability to see the truth—by grace. We have been given the faith to believe—by grace. We have been given grace for repentance—by grace. We have been washed and made clean—by grace. We have therefore been made clean—by grace. Having been made clean—by grace, we are purified—by grace. And having been purified—by grace, we have been perfected forever—by grace (see Hebrews 10:14).

These things being true, how can we be anything but thankful and give praise to God. For, *“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust”* (Psalm 103:8–14 NKJV).

Therefore, we as believers—by grace—have come to understand that we are fully incapable of saving ourselves, helping ourselves, keeping ourselves, assisting God with ourselves, purifying ourselves, perfecting ourselves, and therefore having any confidence in ourselves. We simply give thanks to the Lord and offer praise to His Holy name.

Today, Daryl will explain...

See you next week. I love you all, Pastor Paul