

## Cleanliness is Next to Godliness

**Read:** Psalm 24

**Main idea:** When the Bible speaks of our cleanliness, it is primarily referring to the moral purity that comes from the washing of our souls and minds by the Word and Spirit of God rather than the cleansing of our physical bodies.

**Key Verses:** “He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.” (24:4-5 ESV)

### Key Principles:

- Biblically speaking, outward cleanliness has no connection to godliness.
- Humans are defiled by what is in their hearts and not by how many times they wash their hands or clean their bodies.
- God is the creator of all things and has given humans dominion over His creation, which that includes our own bodies.
- We are to be good stewards of the human bodies that God has entrusted to us.
- It brings God glory when we take care of ourselves physically, mentally, emotionally and, most of all, spiritually.
- We cleanse ourselves by drawing near to God through repentance and faith in His grace and mercy to purify our hearts and minds in spite of our sinfulness.

### Discussion:

1. Why do you think that people use this phrase? How has it changed through the years from the time of the Pharisees until now? Is there any value in it?
2. Read Matthew 23:25-28. What is Jesus teaching the Pharisees about outward cleanliness versus inward cleanliness? What does that reveal to us?
3. The concept of cleanliness helping you to be more holy is an example of a works-based salvation. Why are people so drawn to works salvation? Are you? Why?
4. Is there merit to washing your hands and your body? What does that have to do with our relationship with God? What are the implications this might have on other areas of our physical health?
5. If someone were to mention “Cleanliness is Next to Godliness” in a conversation with you, how might you turn it into a gospel conversation?
6. Does someone’s outward appearance affect the way they are treated in our society? Does it affect the way you treat them? Did it affect the way Jesus treated them?

### Prayer:

- Pray that we would have a desire to be cleansed by God’s Word & Spirit of immorality.
- Pray:
  - That we would draw near to God through repentance and faith for holiness.
  - That we would see others as sinners in need of a Savior instead of enemies.
  - That we would strive to turn everyday conversations into gospel conversations.

**Cleanliness is Next to Godliness**  
Psalm 24

- |             |  |                |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| <b>I.</b>   | <b><u>Acknowledge the Lord's Creation.</u></b> | <b>24:1-2</b>  |
| 1.          | The earth is <u>completely</u> His.            | 24:1           |
| 2.          | The earth is <u>rightly</u> His.               | 24:2           |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b><u>Hear the Lord's Challenge.</u></b>       | <b>24:3-6</b>  |
| 1.          | You must come <u>cleanly</u> .                 | 24:3-4         |
| 2.          | You can come <u>expectantly</u> .              | 24:5-6         |
| <b>III.</b> | <b><u>See the Lord's Coming.</u></b>           | <b>24:7-10</b> |
| 1.          | Look for the King who is <u>mighty</u> .       | 24:7-8         |
| 2.          | Look for the King of <u>glory</u> .            | 24:9-10        |

NEXT WEEK:  
**Created to Work**  
Colossians 3:22-4:1