

09.21.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Purging with a Twist”

Scripture Reading: [1 John 1:5-2:2](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

Simplify. Declutter. Remove. Minimalize. Purge.

Have you heard any of these words lately? Do any of them sound familiar? If you are doing any reading lately regarding lifestyle improvement or personal well-being, you will know that these words are very popular and used quite often when it comes to improving a person’s living room, mental health, and whole life. Countless authors and bloggers remind us through their articles and social media posts that the key to finding personal well-being and wholeness is simplifying, decluttering, removing, minimalizing, and purging certain things out of our lives.

The apostle John would fit very well into our current cultural movement of removing, decluttering, and purging. In our text for this week, John talks about something every one of us needs removed and purged from our lives. However, the thing John talks about that all of us need to be removed, is rarely, if ever talked about by the lifestyle improvement authors and bloggers. What is this thing that needs to be removed? John says it is our sin.

All of us have sin. John reminds us of this truth in our lives. None of us is exempt. We all have sin in our lives, and we all are dealing with its effects. If for some reason we happen to think we are exempt from sin, John reminds us we are a liar. More than that, John says we are a liar who is deceiving ourselves as we are walking around in the darkness rather than the truth.

But John also says this. John reminds us that if we confess our sin, if we acknowledge the truth of our sin and its effects on our own lives and the lives of those around us, if we “...admit our sins—simply come clean about them---...” as Eugene Peterson translates John words in *The Message*, the good news for us is that Jesus will be “...faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” If we admit and come clean about our sin/sins, Jesus will “...forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.” The good news for us is that Jesus will remove, declutter, and purge our hearts and lives from sin *IF* we simply admit it and come clean about it.

So, we all need to ask ourselves whether we want what Jesus graciously offers to us. Do we want forgiveness? Do we want to be purified from all unrighteousness? Do we want Jesus to purge us from all wrongdoing?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for your incredible gift to each one of us. Thank you for the gift of forgiveness, of purification, of purging us of all wrongdoing. Spirit of God, enable us to confess, acknowledge, admit, and simply come clean about our sin/sins so that we can receive Jesus’ gracious gift. In Jesus’ name, we pray. AMEN.

Action Item for Day/Week:

Acknowledge, admit, and simply come clean about your sin/sins in your life. Engage in the spiritual discipline of confession.

After spending time in confession, reread 1 John 1:8-10 five times slowly and reflectively:

⁸“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.”

Memorize 1 John 1:8-10!

Songs for today:

[Lord, I Need You](#)

[I Want to Walk as a Child of The Light](#)

[God be Merciful to Me](#)