

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 1:7-10, Isaiah 1:18  
HYMN: "There is Power in the Blood"

## SOUL CLEANER

I love to clean. I love the satisfaction of disinfecting the bathroom, removing mildew from the shower tiles, polishing wood furniture, making smudged glass clean again...I could go on and on. Can you relate? I also love laundry day- making clothes smell fresh again, whitening whites with chlorine bleach and pressing wrinkled shirts with a hot iron and spray starch. Taking something that is dirty, smelly or stained and making it new again is rewarding work for me!



Speaking of stains, have you discovered the many remedies to remove stains? Things like: if you get ink on your clothing, try rubbing alcohol or hair spray. Or if you get tomato sauce on your clothes, try ammonia. If it's coffee you've spilled, club soda or lemon juice might work to remove that stubborn stain. Want to hear an unusual stain remover? Try molasses on your white leather shoes if you get grass stains on them.

By now, I'm sure you're wondering why I'm going to such length talking about stain removal- good question! Well, did you know that there is only one stain remover for our soul? Yes, the Lord tells us that it is our sin that makes a stain on our soul, a stain that we cannot clean ourselves. But there is good news! The Lord says in the book of Isaiah, "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18) But how does one receive this inward cleansing from the Lord? 1 John 1:7 tells us: "the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

We must first recognize that we have a sin stain within (we all do), and then go to the only One who can cleanse us- Jesus. Like those of us who love to clean house or laundry, our God is more than willing to clean *us*! There is no greater satisfaction He has than to do this for us. And, unlike homes or laundry, our souls are eternal. We will stand before God one day with souls that are cleansed by Jesus' blood, and we will be able to stand before Him in His holiness; or unprepared- filthy and stained, for those who have not accepted His Word. If you have not yet done this, go to Jesus today for soul cleansing- it is the most rewarding and lasting cleaning experience of all!!

