

This is the Day...Friday

July 22, 2022

Bath Time

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

As a young boy, I was able to find new and unique ways to get dirty very quickly. If I was going to attend an event or even going to church, I was always the last one my mom would dress and then she would put me on the couch and dare me to move. She knew that I could go from clean and shiny to sweaty and dirty in about thirty seconds.

On days that I did not have to dress up, Mom did not mind if I came home dirty. Most days, after hours in the hot sun, playing in the creek with all the mud and dirt, I would arrive home for dinner smelling like a dirty wet sock and covered in all the fun I had that day. Mom would typically strip me down on the back deck and send me straight to the bath. I never really minded going to bath if I felt like I was really dirty. As fun as it was to get dirty, it always felt great to be clean again. But there were occasions when I resisted bath time. It was on those occasions that Mom would say that I was like, “Bathing a cat!”

Ever given a cat a bath? Talk about resistance. And a cat does not just resist with their voice, they have weapons! Ronda and I used to have a cat with some serious skin problems. We had her on all the medications that the vet could recommend, but nothing seemed to work. So, I decided she needed a good bath. Clearly, the cat disagreed. By the time the bath was completed, I was soaked, scratched, and bleeding and the cat was so angry that she disappeared for a few days. It is not unusual for animals and even people to resist a good cleansing.

I am confident that God looks at us regularly and thinks, “That person sure could use a good cleansing.” God sees the dirt that we can’t see. God sees the filthy thoughts and the heart filled with greed or animosity. God sees the failures and disobedience. His greatest desire is to strip all that away on the back deck and get us clean. But we resist. We don’t feel that dirty. We don’t need forgiveness. We have nothing to confess. But anything less than perfect falls short of God’s glory and purpose for our life. And whether we are willing to admit it or not, we smell like a dirty wet sock. For God, getting us to accept our cleansing is like bathing a cat!

On this day which God has given you, maybe it is time to you submit yourself to a good bath. Take advantage of the cleansing waters while they are available. Seek forgiveness and ask God to wash away all that dirt that has accumulated on your spiritual self. Get rid of those angry grudges, that load of guilt, and those dark places that have settled in your heart. Life can get us dirty, but it always feels great to get clean again. And God will separate us from that dirt as far as the east is from the west.