

Session #14: **“LAWS OF PURITY – OUR NEED OF SANCTIFICATION”** — **Leviticus 15:1-33**

Monday 7:30pm, H 206 (2nd floor, High School—top of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),
Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net
For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/index.html?sender=sermons>

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes and outline to commentaries on Leviticus by David Hocking, Pastor Chuck Smith, J. Vernon McGee and Jon Courson.

- **Questions:** Does God take away your depravity when you are saved? If not, why not? Do you think our depravity is like an infectious sore?
- **Verses 25-30** speak about female sickness. Can you think of any NT examples?
- **What did Jesus say about that which defiles your body?** Mt. 15:18
- **T or F?** Because of current medical advances, STD are no longer a problem in the USA.

The theme of the book is a **“CALL TO HOLINESS”** and it is divided into two parts: Chaps. 1-16 emphasize that the **WAY TO GOD IS BY SACRIFICE**, while chapters 17-27 emphasize that **OUR WALK WITH GOD IS BY SANCTIFICATION**. In chapters 1-7 we studied the **REQUIREMENTS** FOR SACRIFICE, and in chapters 8-10, we learned about the **REGULATIONS** FOR THE PRIESTS. In chapters 11-16, we are examining the **RULES** FOR CLEANSING.

The **ILLUSTRATION** of **SIN** - Lev. 12:1-13:59

The **ISSUE** of **SALVATION** - Lev. 14:1-57

The **IMPORTANCE** of **SANCTIFICATION** - Lev. 15:1-33

The illustration of sin which is presented to us in the laws of purity and cleansing is found in chapters 12 & 13, and it is “leprosy.” In chapter 14, *verse 4*, we read of the usage of “hyssop” in the ceremonial cleansing of the leper. It was used to scrub the infected area to determine the spread of the disease and whether a healing process had begun. In *Psalms 51:7*, David said in his psalm of repentance, ***“Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”*** The use of physical disease to illustrate “sin” is a frequent usage in the Scriptures.

Chapter 15:

The word **“issue or discharge”** is used 24 times in this chapter. It refers to a “flow of liquid” whether water or a fluid discharged from the human body. **These running sores are highly contagious and infectious, and they reveal to us the exceeding sinfulness of sin.** Cf. *Genesis 6:5; Job 14:4; Psalm 19:12; Romans 7:18*

In these chapters on the laws of purity, God gives to us **a comprehensive view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin**. Personal hygiene and God’s concern for women are involved in these laws of purity, but **the main point deals with personal sanctity or holiness** - the need of cleansing from physical defilements are clear pictures of **our need of cleansing from spiritual defilement**.

Throughout this chapter there is **the clear implication that the defilements discussed are related to sexual matters**. Dr. J. Vernon McGee writes concerning this chapter: **“Human nature is an overflowing cesspool and a sewer of uncleanness. Not only is human nature defiled, but it is defiling; not only is it corrupt, but it is corrupting.”** This could refer to anything from diarrhea to venereal diseases, such as gonorrhea, which is an infection of the genital tract. The disease is normally acquired through sexual contact with an infected person.

There are **four basic applications** of the problem of physical defilement, and the need of cleansing. Each section begins with the phrase ***“When any man has a discharge”*** - v. 2 or ***“if any man has an emission”*** - v. 16 or ***“If a woman has a discharge”*** - v. 19 of ***“If a woman has a discharge”*** - v. 25

The literary structure of this chapter **balances two types of discharge: chronic and occasional**, dealing with both male and female. The **chronic, serious infectious discharge** of the male in *verse 1-15* is followed by the **occasional ejaculation of semen** in *verses 16-18*. For females, the **monthly period of menstruation** in *verses 19-24* is followed by a discussion of **more serious discharges** in *verse 25-30*.

❖ 1A. **MALE DISCHARGE-SICKNESS** - 1-15

In this passage the emission seems to be related to the male sexual organ. The Hebrew term for discharge or emission (*zob*) is rare, occurring only in Leviticus. In *verse 3* where we learn that the discharge runs periodically, the Hebrew word (*rar*) is not found anywhere else in the Bible, but is related to a noun, (*rir*), meaning “slimy juice” or “saliva.”

If the diagnosis of gonorrhea for the male discharge is correct, it is **especially appropriate to regard this as very defiling**, since it involves sexual sin that can affect the nation, blocking effective worship!

Again, Dr. McGee comments on this section: “This vivid language reveals how sickening, disgusting, abhorrent, offensive, impure, repugnant, and utterly corrupt and corrupting the human nature is.”

Jesus commented on what **defiles** a person – Cf. - **Matthew 15:18-20**, He said, “**But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.**” – sin offering, burnt offering
Gonorrhea can be contracted occasionally from clothing and towels.

❖ 2A. **MALE SEMEN** - 16-18

Emission of semen was usually a matter of sexual activity and such rules for these matters was a common teaching as it relates to worship. **Exodus 19:14-15; Lev. 22:4; Deut. 23:10; 1 Samuel 21:4-5; 2 Samuel 11:11; Heb. 13:4**

Even though no purification sacrifice was necessary, the procedures needed to be done because whatever comes in contact with the emission was unclean for that day.

❖ 3A. **FEMALE DISCHARGE - MONTHLY** - 19-24

This instruction not only has hygienic importance, but there is also a very humane aspect to this regulations. This legislation provided some rest and relief for the woman from normal activities, and gave her opportunity to renew her energy. The woman is honored by the members of her household and not exploited during these difficult times. - cf. **1 Peter 3:7**

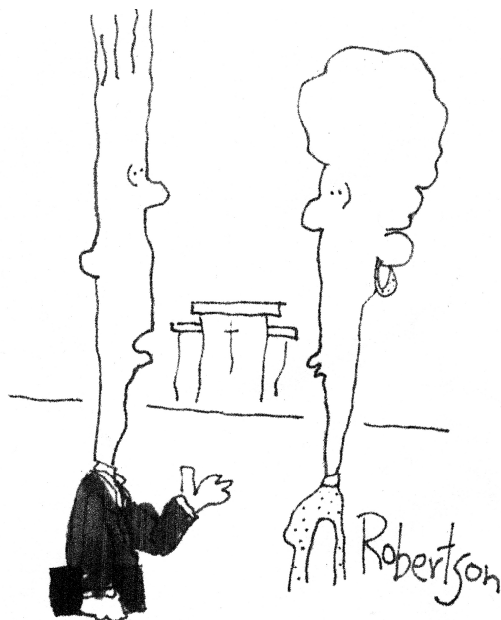
❖ 4A. **FEMALE DISCHARGE - EXTENDED** - 25-30

Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48 - woman with an issue of blood

❖ 5A. **DIVINE SANCTIFICATION** - 31-33

Many have suggested that the separation of sexual activity from worship was unique among ancient peoples. Pagan worship was often associated with sexual and fertility rites - all in the name of worshipping a given pagan god. **God's standards of holiness are quite different.** In a fundamental sense, **God makes it clear that holiness involves physical purity** - **1 Thess. 4:1-8; 1 Cor. 6:17-18; 2 Cor. 7:1**

BE PURE! BE HOLY!



“I need you to find some choruses to fit in with my message on ‘Old Testament Requirements for Cleansing Leprosy on the Scalp.’”