



# The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 24.03.21

## BIBLE STUDY - LEVITICUS - 9. THE MANUAL OF PURITY - Leviticus 11-15

So far:

- *Ch.s 1-7* The Manual of Sacrifices
- *Ch.s 8-10* The Manual of Priesthood
- *Ch.s 11-15* The Manual of Purity

2 Timothy 3:16 - teaches that there is a purpose and message in the whole of Scripture that is useful to Christians.

### 1. THE MESSAGE OF THE MANUAL OF PURITY

- Leviticus is one manual divided into several sections; each section is equally important and the overall message of the whole book is **The Importance of Purity**
- We should not divide our lives into spiritual life and practical (normal) life. God is interested in every part of our lives and we must consider Him in every part. *1 Cor.10:31; Col.3:17*. We must each lay our whole life down as a living sacrifice.
- In our lives there should be an emphasis on "purity and Cleanliness before God."

### 2. THE MANUAL OF PURITY - ITS COMPONENT PARTS

#### A) Purity in diet - Ch.11

- Laws given re cleanliness/uncleanliness of land animals (*vv.2-8*); sea creatures (*vv.9-12*); creatures of the air (*vv.13-19*); and insects (*vv.20-23*).
- Practical reason for the laws is debated (e.g. maybe for hygiene etc.) - but whatever that may be - real reason always "because God said so" - God wanted His people to be distinct, set apart, unique.
- **Do these laws still apply to us? - No**
  - Laws given to children of Israel (*v.2*)
  - Matter settled at Council of Jerusalem in *Acts 15*; also *Col.2:16*; *1Tim.4:1,3-5*
  - Biblical Principle - Wise to eat what is "helpful" to the body and we should not be under the power of what we eat. *1 Cor.9:24-27*
  - see also *Romans 14:14* & *1 Cor.10:31*.
  - We should also be mindful of the "weaker brother" - *Romans 14:1-3,19-21*.

#### B) Purity with regard to the body - Ch.s 12 & 15

##### **Ch.12 - Issue of impurity caused by childbirth**

- After birth a woman was ceremonially unclean (30 days for a boy, 60 days for a girl);
- God provided different sacrifices for being made clean dependent on economic state;
- N.B. ceremonial uncleanliness was "contagious".

### **Ch.15 - Issue of impurity caused by bodily fluids**

- This dealt with fluids of different kinds from reproductive organs, both male and female.

### **C) Purity with regard to disease - Ch.s 13-14**

- It was the priests' job to keep the Israelites from uncleanness - *Lev.15:31*
- Here rather than God declaring the state of the person, the priest must decide what is or is not clean - they are given instructions to diagnose the disease.  
*Ch.s 11,12,15 - "Say to the Israelites"*  
*Ch.s 13,14 - "The Lord said to Moses and Aaron"*
- Four sections are covered:
  - Infamous skin diseases (*13:1-46*);
  - Contaminated fabrics (*13:47-59*);
  - Healed people (*14:1-32*); and
  - Defiled buildings (*14:33-53*)

### **Message of Ch.s 12-15 - "Clean v. Unclean"**

- All about keeping what is "clean" separate from "unclean"
- Some wrongly interpret this as meaning any sexual relation is an unclean act - i.e. sinful. BUT "Cleanliness" has to do with **RITUAL PURITY** not MORAL PURITY. (N.B. Sin is dealt with differently - by sacrifices.)
- Some things were **temporarily** unclean - this could be overcome by the "rites of cleansing" as laid out in *Ch.s 12,14 & 15*
- Some things were **permanently** unclean - e.g. some animals in *Ch.11* could not be "made holy" in any way.
- We should NOT equate "uncleanliness" with being a "guilty sinner" (e.g. issue of blood after childbirth).

***The focus of these chapters is once again how people living in a fallen world can come near to a God in worship. Once again, God graciously provides a way.***

## **2. THE MANUAL OF PURITY - ITS APPLICATION** (with particular reference to Ch.s12-15)

### **A) The Danger of Sin - how "clean" can become "unclean"**

- The "Parable of Leprosy" teaches what a loathsome thing sin is in the sight of God
- David Guzik likens Leprosy to sin:
  - It begins as nothing.
  - It is painless in its first stages.
  - It grows slowly.
  - It often remits for a while and then returns.
  - It numbs the senses – one cannot feel in the afflicted area.
  - It causes decay and deformity.
  - It eventually gives a person a repulsive appearance.
  - It Kills

- Spurgeon: "Every man by nature is a leper"
- **BUT** - Morgan: "There came in the fulness of time One Who could not only look at, but touch the leper – One Who could cure. That is also the story of His dealing with sin."

God is showing us how sin works - how important it is for us to separate ourselves from it and have nothing to do with it.

## **B) God has the Answer - Christ Jesus is the answer to uncleanness**

- He touched the Lepers and made them clean
- The woman with the issue of blood touched his garment and it made her clean
- In neither case was Jesus contaminated by their uncleanness!
- Jesus is the answer to our problem of impurity - His sacrifice made once for all was sufficient for ALL our impurity. All of the demands of the law are met in Him.
- N.B. When lepers sent to priest, already totally healed - they went so that they could be reinstated in society.

### **A MESSAGE FOR US TODAY:**

- **We are still called to live a life of purity - in thought and word and deed;**
- **It is about our heart - our spiritual life, not just our practical, physical life;**
- **WE SHOULD STILL BE "SET APART" FOR GOD**
- **God must be recognised and honoured;**
- **He must govern our behaviour so that we will be seen to be different from the world.**