

Text: Hebrews 10:15-22. (Beck translation.) Maundy Thursday. **April 18, 2019.**

Grace and peace are yours through Christ's body and blood. Amen.

Long before the Tide Pod thing, Tide had a different slogan. Tide's in. Dirt's out. Easy to remember. Good description. Tide's in. Dirt's out. Something similar is true of the Lord's Supper. Christ's in. Guilt's out. Wow! That's a relief. Christ's in. Guilt's out. Christ's body is in your heart. Guilt's out. Guilt's gone. Christ's blood in on your mind. Guilt's out. Christ's body scrubs the guilt from your soul. Guilt's out. Christ's blood wipes your heart clean. Guilt's out. Christ's in. Guilt's out.

These are the words of assurance of the Holy Spirit. This is the covenant I will make. We would do well to think of the word, "testament," as the picture of the word, "covenant," and then we can perhaps better connect last will and testament with the Lord's Supper. Because that's what the Lord's Supper is, Christ's last will and testament to give us himself and make our guilt be gone. A last will and testament is one-sided. One party draws up the will. One person declares how it is. And that's how it is. In a last will and testament, stuff is given away. Freely. Christ gives away his body and blood. Freely. He declares, "Your guilt is gone. Go in peace." What Christ says goes. No one can change the will or change the terms and with terms like that, who would want to? And a will requires death for it to take effect. Christ had to shed his blood as the once and for all sacrifice. No more sacrifice is required. Guilt is gone. Sin is forgiven. This one-sided, freely given, last will and testament is signed in Christ's blood. Sealed in his empty tomb. Delivered in bread and wine, which are Christ's body and blood. Christ's in. Guilt's out. All we bring to the table, literally, the Lord's table, all we bring to the table is sin. Well, and the guilt that follows sin. The stupid sin we did that broke the law. Speeding ticket. Ruins your day. Three years before you get the points back. Guilt that I'm depressed even though I'm a Christian. I should be the happiest person on earth. Guilt that I'm not a good enough mother. I'm not a good enough husband when my wife is so good to me. Guilt that I don't provide for my family, that I'm not there for my friends because I'm such a mess. I can't get that guilt out of my gut. I can't forget.

But God does forget! God already forgot! God will always forget. God does not remember your sins. Now and forever. God wrenches your wrongs from his memory. Man, I don't get this! God knows everything. How can he forget? I can't forget these sins, how can the all-knowing, omniscient God forget them? God put your sins on Jesus. Your guilt is gone. God treated Jesus like the sinner. The God who can choose to do anything, chooses to forget your sins. The God who can do anything, put your sins on Jesus. Your guilt is gone. God will not remember your sins anymore. Nevermore. Don't remember your sins. Your guilt is gone. Don't keep calling those sins to mind. Put those sins on God's mind. God forgot your sins. Your guilt is gone.

Instead of guilt, we have confidence. Confidence to boldly go where no one has gone before, the holy place. I know, the Star Trek fans are giddy now. And I don't need to tell you to get a life, because, fellow Christians you already have a life, Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. And with the blood of Jesus we can now boldly go into the holy place. Stop. We can't imagine people hearing that 2000 years ago. Boldly go into the holy place? No one went into the holy place, except the priest. And no one went into the Most Holy Place, except the High Priest and only he once a year and only then after rituals and sacrifices for his own sins and even then the place was filled with smoke. And if you weren't the high priest and it wasn't that day, you didn't dare even think about it. You didn't even get close to the most

holy place. Anyone who tried would be struck dead! But now, we can boldly go where no ordinary person went before: the holy place. We now go through the new, living way Jesus opened through the curtain of his body. His body! It's through Christ's body we enter the holy place. It's through Christ's body we have access to God. That's right. Bold access to God. Access to pray to him for the big things, for the little things, for every things. Access. Full access. Direct access. It doesn't have to be pastor who's closer to God. You are close to God. How much closer could you be than to have Christ's own body in your mouth, wiping away guilt, in your gut, taking away guilt. There's no guilt. There's no fear. You have access to God through Christ's body. Christ's in. Guilt's gone.

Let us then come near God. Wow! Come near God. Those old fogies like me remember the old hymnal when just about every service started with these words, "Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart." One of the services in the current hymnal starts that way, too. Let us draw near, come near to God, sincere in our hearts and convinced in our faith. What could make us more sincere than Christ's own body and blood? What could make us more convinced than Christ himself entering us? Christ's in. Guilt's out.

Our hearts were sprinkled to take away our guilty feelings. You won't find these words translated like this in many translations, but I loved this so much I couldn't help but use this translation, if only for these words. Our hearts were sprinkled to take away our guilty feelings. I can't tell you how many times I sit with our members, God's people, Christians, good Christians, long-time Christians who say, "I fell so guilty for fill in the blank." Our hearts stand sprinkled and are sprinkled forever and will always be sprinkled to take away our guilty feelings. Literally, our hearts were sprinkled to take away an evil conscience. See, the conscience that's filled with guilt is an evil conscience. Guilt is the voice of the devil, not of God. I'm not talking about being convicted of sin. That's God's work to make me aware of sin and lead me to run to Christ and trust in Christ alone for forgiveness and to gulp and gobble his body and blood to have full assurance and complete confidence guilt it gone. I'm talking about the devil's voice that turns us away from God. "You can't be a Christian! Not after what you did. If God is so great, why are you so sad? If God wants you to be happy, why are you so depressed? You must not believe enough. You must have done something so terrible God can never forgive. God can never forget!"

And now you can feel the relief. God will not remember our sins anymore. Christ's in. Guilt's out. My heart stands sprinkled. The idea isn't that I just have a little sprinkling of Jesus. The picture is God himself reached out and throws his love on me again and again, and puts his blood in my mouth and on my heart, over and over. Maybe tonight drink a little more slowly and feel Christ's blood enter your heart and say, "My heart is sprinkled to take away guilty feelings." Sense the blood of Christ washing over your heart and washing away guilty feelings. My guilt is gone! Devil, you can't trouble me anymore! I don't listen to your voice of guilt. I listen to God say, "I will not remember your sins anymore." God doesn't remember my sins. Why would I remember them? Take in a huge breath after you take in that blood of Christ, that blood takes away guilt feelings. That blood washes my body and soul clean. When you start to feel guilty again, then come again and Christ's blood will take away your guilty feelings. Again. And again. And again and again. Christ's in. Guilt's out. Christ's in. Guilt's out. Guilt's out. Guilt's out. Amen.

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