

Cleansed Through Christ

This morning as I was praying the issue of my cleanliness before God came to my mind, as it often does. The subject of the Atonement, and of living a Christ-like life, has been much in my thoughts lately, and those reflections were a part of my prayers. A phrase from D&C 121:45 came to my mind:

... let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; ...

This phrase is very familiar to me, and I have spoken of it before. But this morning I started to form an image from it; helped, perhaps, by another familiar phrase from Jacob 2:10:

... the glance of the piercing eye of the Almighty God.

In my prayers I imagined that, before God, my body was as clear as glass, except for the sins, which I saw as impurities or filthiness. These sins were perfectly visible, and caused me to shrink before my God.

However, the Savior's love was like a light which shone through me and began to burn away the filthiness and the evil. As I strove to keep virtue in my thoughts I was answered by the cleansing power of His Atonement, and gradually I became a pure piece of glass, in which my confidence before God did wax stronger and stronger. I was clean, and I was happy.

There are many things about that vision that I like. I think that our goal is purity, and the only path to that purity is through Christ. Alone we are stained, and those stains are within us and we are unable to clean them. Through the Atonement which was worked for us those impurities are cleansed. When we stand in the presence of God, which we always do, but do not always remember, our sins become evident and block us from enjoying all of His love. Our confidence, or closeness to God, grows as those sins are washed away.

How great the importance of remembering these things! How great the importance of trusting in the Lord with all our hearts! How great the importance of teaching these things, in our homes and in the Church! The object of our existence is happiness, and that will come through righteous and humble living, by the power of Christ's Atonement. I feel my Savior's love, and rejoice in it.