



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### Perfumes And Deodorants . . . . They Testify Of Our Sinfulness!



*"For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness," Psalm 38:4-5.*

It is a quite remarkable thing that King David, despite all his military engagements, never was wounded. At least there is no record in Scripture of him every suffering any injuries in battle. The nearest he came to a wounding was his near fatal encounter in his latter years with one of the offspring of Goliath.

*"Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint. And Ishbibenob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David. But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David swore unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel," 2 Samuel 21:15-17.*

But apart from this incident I believe it correct to say that the Lord kept David safe on the battlefield.

#### **Moral wounds**

We may thus conclude that when David speaks of his 'wounds' in our text, he is not speaking of physical injuries but rather he is lamenting over his moral injuries, the hurts and bruising caused by his sins.

This form of metaphor is often found in Holy Scripture. Physical disease and wounds are likened unto the havoc sin works upon our soul and heart!

"Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment," Isaiah 1:5-6.

In Jeremiah's prophecy are found the same figurative expressions. In chapter 6, verse 14 and chapter 30, verse 12 we read: "They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. . . . . For thus saith the LORD, Thy bruise is incurable, and thy wound is grievous."

Furthermore, we see this usage applied to the outworking of Christ's sufferings on the cross. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed," Isaiah 53:5. Peter uses the same terminology in 1 Peter 2:24. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

How glorious is that verse in Malachi 4:2, where the second coming of Christ is referred to! "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings." The word 'wings' suggests the overshadowing by a mother hen of her little flock under whose wings there is safety and shelter. So Christ will overshadow with His glory and power His people on the day of His return and what a 'healing' will be wrought to the saints in the grave and those alive at His coming again! "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever



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be with the Lord," 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17.

On that day we will experience complete healing from all the maladies and the corruptions of sin which do beset us here. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is," 1 John 3:2.

Thus, having established, I trust, that David is speaking of moral 'wounds', the injuries sin has inflicted upon him and that such 'stink' - give forth a bad smell. Such is a common thing as any medic would testify to! Wounds and injuries give forth a wretched odour. Indeed, of late we have all read of the use of dogs to detect various diseases present in the human body before any evidence of such has been detected. Diseases as diverse as cancer and Parkinson's Disease can be detected by trained dogs.

There is a foul smell from sin that needs no dog to detect! That is an ill-savoured aroma which corrupts the atmosphere of every life, home, village, town, city and nation of this earth! From every corner of the globe there comes evidence of this evil decaying.

Recently, it was reported that smoke from the fires burning in California could be seen in the skies over the United Kingdom. In like manner, the sinful activities of nations migrate and corrupt neighbouring nations and block out the light of God's truth!

### My title

The title I have used for this article highlights a daily routine in which most people engage, the applying of a sweet-smelling solution of some form in order to mask the unpleasant odours emanating from the human body!

That is the truth of the matter which is a daily, indeed, almost hourly routine for some!

That practice testifies to the fall of mankind into sin as a result of Adam's transgression. He, being our federal head, was acting on behalf of all his descendants and his disobedience to God's command condemned and contaminated us all.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned," Romans 5:12.

In the Garden of Eden, before the Fall, the only smell that filled the air was that of the glorious vegetation, the flowers and shrubs that God had brought forth on the third day of creation, Genesis 1:11-13. How wonderful must have been the air in that garden, filled as it was from the moment of creation with the multiple scents of the sublimely delightful array of blossoming plants!

How different things are today! While nature still retains something of that sweetness, man's foul wickedness overwhelms and drowns out that sweetness.

Again, I say: the perfumes and deodorants that we daily employ testify of our sinfulness! The human body requires such attention as washing and perfuming because it is a decaying, decomposing object. There are few adults who have not delighted in the natural sweetness of a little baby! In its infancy, the process of physical decay has only begun and has not yet advanced to the degree where the body sets forth evidence of the inward decline.

### Time And Eternity

But what manufactured perfumes and deodorants miserably fail to achieve, there is a means of perfuming the human being to a degree much more effective, indeed, effective in time and eternity.

Heed these words. "With his stripes we are healed," Isaiah 53:5. These words we have already quoted. Here is 'healing' from the wounds of sin. Human perfumery can only conceal, disguise and cover, for a short time,



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the embarrassing evidence of the decaying of our bodies. But in the blood of Christ there is healing for our moral diseases. As with a wound that is closed up and healed, it ceases to emit an evil smell, so with the healing of the soul from sin by the blood of Christ, there is a removing of the source of stench of sin to a very large degree. That healing process begins at conversion, at the regenerating of the soul by the power of the Holy Ghost and the imparting of the holy nature of Christ to the humbled, repentant, believing sinner. The garments of Christ's righteousness cover the poor naked sinner and His garments "smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia," Psalm 45:8.

Oh! what a glorious difference the applying of heaven's perfume makes to the aura surrounding the true believer!

### Jews

It was the custom of the Jews to anoint the bodies of the dead in order to seek to block out the smell of death until the dead were buried. This custom was seen in the case of the Saviour's death. "And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand," John 19:39-42.

Of course, in the Saviour's case there was no need whatever for such an anointing for "neither his flesh did see corruption," Acts 2:31.

But with us, even when alive we need such a cloaking of the smell of sinful decay. That is provided by the sweet perfume of Christ's imparted holiness.

As with the man of Gadara, who was wonderfully changed physically and morally by Christ's grace so it is with all those who truly experience the saving mercy of God.

"And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid," Mark 5:15.

What a change in the man who before was "a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones," Mark 5:2-5.

What a moral, and it must be said, physical stench emanated from that poor demented creature. But what an instant change Christ's mercy made. He was "sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind." Truly, he was a new man. This is what the gospel does. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," 2 Corinthians 5:17.

I repeat, mankind generally engages in that which, were appropriate consideration given to the habit, testifies to us all of the fact that our "iniquities . . . stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness."

Will you seek unto the Lord for that wonderful gospel perfume that will begin to erode forever the stench of wickedness and the dreadful end that sin will bring upon those diseased by it?

"The soul that sinneth it shall die'. This is not mere physical death but as we read: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment," Hebrews 9:27. "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the



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books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire," Revelation 20:11-15.

There is an eternal death awaiting the soul that leaves this world without faith in Christ!

Please heed God's Word today and seek the cleansing, purifying and perfuming blood of Christ for the deliverance from the contaminating, condemning stench of sin.

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