

“Cleansing Power”

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“Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves’” (Matt. 21:12, 13).

There was the power of the royal priest, and that is an illustration of what Jesus still does when He makes His triumphal entry through the power of the cross. The Lord says: “Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts.” “He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness” (Mal. 3:1, 3).

Our bodies are the temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16, 17; 6:19). The Lord is surely coming to His temple; but “Who may abide the day of His coming?” The Jews would not accept His cleansing of the ancient temple, and so, instead of standing for ever, it had to be destroyed; for “if anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are” (1 Cor. 3:17). God would cleanse us by the coming of His messenger; but if we refuse to be cleansed, then will His coming destroy us. But the power and glory of His coming to destroy, is the power of His coming to save. The fire that burns up the finally impenitent is the fire that consumes the sins of those who have allowed themselves to be cleansed.

In cleansing us He heals. As soon as the temple was cleansed, “the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them” (Matt. 21:14). There was authority exhibited in the cleansing of the temple—power which caused the traders that defiled it to flee in terror; yet that was the power that healed the lame and the blind. Take notice that all the power of the Lord, even when it appears in awful majesty, striking terror to the hearts of the wicked and working destruction, is simply cleansing power, and is always working only to cleanse. The fire that will burn up the wicked at the last, will be the fire sent to cleanse the earth from the curse. Shall we experience the blessedness of that cleansing power, or shall we resist it and so be destroyed by it? We have our choice. If we yield, we feel the cleansing power; if we resist, we feel only the destruction, and the cleansing process leaves us as though we had not been. Then let us say,

“Every day, every hour, let me feel Thy cleansing power.”

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