**Today, Christ does the washing, but Christians, as Ruth, must act. It is only as we “confess our sins,” judging ourselves (**[**1 Corinthians 11:31-32**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+11.31-32&t=NKJV)**),** [**1 John 1:9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+1.9&t=NKJV)**), that Christ effects cleansing on our behalf.**

**“WASH YOURSELF”  
From** [**The Marriage Supper of the Lamb**](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-in-revelation.php#The%20Marriage%20Supper%20of%20the%20Lamb) **by Arlen Chitwood of** [**Lamp Broadcast**](http://lampbroadcast.org/) **in this site.**

“Washing” has to do with *a cleansing from present defilement*. Within the scope of the ministry of priests in the Old Testament, a complete washing of the body occurred at the time one entered into the priesthood, never to be repeated ([Exodus 29:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+29.4&t=NKJV); [40:12-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+40.12-15&t=NKJV)). Subsequent washings of parts of the body then occurred at the brazen (bronze) laver (basin) in the courtyard of the tabernacle as the priests ministered between the brazen (bronze) altar and the Holy Place ([Exodus 30:19-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+30.19-21&t=NKJV)). Their hands and feet became soiled as they carried out their ministry, and the brazen (bronze) laver (basin) had upper and lower basins for washing these soiled parts of the body.

Washings in the Old Testament were thus looked upon in two senses — a washing of *the complete body* (a one-time initial cleansing), followed by washings of *parts of the body* (numerous subsequent cleansings). It was these two types of cleansings that Jesus referred to when speaking to Peter in [John 13:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+13.8&t=NKJV), [10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+13.10&t=NKJV):

*If I do not wash* [Greek: *nipto*, referring to a part of the body (the Septuagint uses this same word in [Exodus 30:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+30.19&t=NKJV), [21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+30.21&t=NKJV))] *you, you have no part with Me* [note: “with me,” not “in me”] . . .

*He who is bathed* [Greek: *louo*, referring to the entire body (the Septuagint uses this word in [Exodus 29:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+29.4&t=NKJV); [40:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+40.12&t=NKJV))] *needs only to wash* [*nipto*] *his feet* . . . . ([Exodus 29:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+29.8&t=NKJV), [10a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+29.10a&t=NKJV) [8b])

Peter had been washed once (described by the word *louo* [his complete body]); now he needed continued washings (described by the word *nipto* [parts of the body]). And, apart from these continued washings, he could have no part “*with*” *Christ* (contextually, the kingdom and positions with Christ therein were in view).

Bringing the typological teachings of the Old Testament and Christ’s statement to Peter over into the lives of Christians today, the matter would be the same.

Christians, part of a New Testament priesthood ([1 Peter 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+2.5&t=NKJV)), received a complete washing (*louo*, the entire body) at the time they entered into the priesthood, at the time they were saved. Now, as priests ministering for their Lord, because of defilement through contact with the world, they need continued partial washings (*nipto*, parts of the body). And, apart from these continued washings, Christians can have no part with Christ in His future kingdom.

*All cleansing is accomplished on the basis of Christ’s past and present work in relation to His shed blood.*

Christ died at Calvary, shedding His blood, to effect our redemption. Those appropriating the blood have been washed (*louo*) and have entered into the priesthood (corresponding in the parallel type to the death of the paschal lambs and the application of the blood in [Exodus 12:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.1ff&t=NKJV)).

And Christ’s blood is today on the mercy seat of the heavenly tabernacle, with Christ ministering, on the basis of His shed blood, on our behalf, in the Holy of Holies, to effect a continued cleansing (*nipto*) for the “*kings and priests*” ([Revelation 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+1.6&t=NKJV); [5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+5.10&t=NKJV)) that He is about to bring forth.

Thus, the Lord has set apart a cleansed (*louo*) people through whom He is accomplishing His plans and purposes. And He has provided a means whereby He can keep those whom He has set apart clean (*nipto*).

Cleansing through the work of Christ as High Priest though is not something that occurs automatically. Ruth had to act herself. She had to prepare herself for the impending meeting with Boaz, on his threshing floor. And Christians must likewise prepare themselves for an impending meeting with Christ, on His threshing floor.

In Ruth’s case, she washed herself:

*Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor . .* .” ([Ruth 3:3a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ruth+3.3a&t=NKJV))

Today, Christ does the washing, but Christians, as Ruth, must act. It is only as we “confess our sins,” judging ourselves ([1 Corinthians 11:31-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+11.31-32&t=NKJV)), that Christ effects cleansing on our behalf.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*. ([1 John 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+1.9&t=NKJV))