

CLEAN HANDS

I'm trying to teach my kids to wash their hands, but it's a battle. They just have trouble making the connection between clean hands and staying healthy.

In the early twentieth century Typhoid Mary had the same problem. Her name was Mary Mallon. She was a fiery Irish-American woman who worked as a cook in and around New York City, and every household she worked in seemed to suffer an outbreak of typhoid fever.

Doctors discovered that her gall bladder was shedding great amounts of typhoid bacteria. She admitted that she never washed her hands while cooking, but she didn't see the point, as she was healthy. They confined her for a while and put her to work as laundress for the Riverside Hospital, and in 1910 – after she promised to give up cooking and only work as a laundress – she was released.

It wasn't long before she changed her name to Mary Brown and took a job as a cook. For the next five years, she stayed one step ahead of the doctors and the law, spreading the disease and death in her wake, until they caught up with her on Long Island. Authorities placed her in quarantine on North Brother Island in the Bronx for the rest of her life, and died of pneumonia in 1938.

The Bible connects clean hands with *spiritual* health. Hands are a fitting symbol of purity because we eat with our hands, so they are often washed. But also, we do most of our work with our hands, making them a symbol of action. Hands reveal our true attitudes and values. Therefore, visible hands are a powerful symbol of our visible heart before God.

This is why priests under the Law of Moses were required to undergo the temple ritual of washing their hands before approaching the LORD'S altar (Ex. 30:17-21). Job said, "The righteous holds to his way, and he who has clean hands grows stronger and stronger" (Job 17:9). Psalm 24:4-5 reads, "He who has clean hands and a pure heart...will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation." James cries, "Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded" (James 4:8).

Pilate called for water and washed his hands at the trial of Christ, as if to say he was not responsible for Jesus' unjust death on the cross (Matt.27:24). But this was only a show. You have to do more than run a little water over your hands to be cleansed. The hands are only a symbol of the invisible heart. And your heart can only be cleansed through Jesus who died for your sins.

Clean hands stand for spiritual health. Only those washed by Christ are clean.

-Drew Kizer

Ashville Rd. Church of Christ Leeds, AL

I'm Molded Jeremiah 18:1-6

I don't understand art. I don't pretend to. I cannot fathom how a canvas with a single coat of black paint can sell for millions of dollars. However, a few weeks ago, I was told that the goal of visual art is to look beyond what is actually there and see what it represents. For example, the solid black painting could represent a definite end or even depression. On the other hand, it could represent opportunity for a fresh start or a past to be erased but not forgotten. If the artist begins and doesn't like what he or she has started, many times that artist can begin anew, making something even better than before.

Our lives are a work of art. Although we because of sin are not anything to be valued in the eyes of the creator, God values us as precious and worth the price of his son's blood. As Jeremiah is communicating with God, he tells Jeremiah to go to the potter's house. As he does, he sees the potter already in the process of creating something. Verse 4 tells us that this potter had to start all over for one startling reason: "but the vessel that he was making of clay **was spoiled** in the hand off the potter." Isn't it ironic that the process of forming something from clay is called "molding" and yet the clay was "spoiled" in his hands? Have you ever felt spoiled, rotten, or decayed? Perhaps that's how we feel when we sin or rebel against God. We get that gut-wrenching feeling of guilt and shame, and we feel rotten to the core.

However, the potter sees the mistake and begins again. This time the mold is to his satisfaction. His time and effort was not wasted because the final product "pleased the potter to make" (verse 4). God comes to Jeremiah again and tells him that this also was the way he was working with the children of Israel. When they sinned, he pulled them down or destroyed them. From that destruction, he built them up again, better than ever before, even pleasing to him.

God can do the same with us if we let him. Being spiritually *spoiled* is bad but being spiritually *molded* is not—as long as God is the craftsman. Are we like clay? Are we at the point where we can be shaped into what God wants us to be according to his word and his will? He can easily make us into what we need to be. Will we let him?

Joshua Houston

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SICK

Lester & Ann Clark

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Imogene Bozeman, Selma Boyd, Janneil Brown, Gerald Wiseman, Jeanie Young, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Ernestine Taylor, Melanie Martin, Mary Creech, Bud Mitchell, Brittany Bullard

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Sue Reeves*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*, Ernestine Taylor*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Edna Vance*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight*, Martha DeVore

MILITARY

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while he is stationed in California at Camp Pendleton.

***Visitors** - We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the collection plate.

The Visitor

BUILDING FUND

We have received donations to the Building Fund in memory of **Clyde Jones & Mary Jo Rogers** by the following:

*Faye Elam

*Nancy Johns

*Scott Golden

*Michele Stone

*Bobbie Golden

*George & Elaine Spry

*Randall & Cindy Phifer

*Regenia Grissom & family

*Advanced Cooling Heating Refrigeration Inc.

NEWS & NOTES

***WELCOME** to our New Members **Cassandra Mihalko and Jamie Burnett – Mihalko.**

***Men's Devo** – Tuesday, March 22nd at Salem Creek. Robert McKnight will host and Rick Acklin will lead the devotional.

***Youth/college retreat** – March 30th is the deadline for the cost of trip (\$35) and medical release forms.

***All December & May Graduates** please submit 20-25 photos or digital pictures on disc to Tammy Berry or Tammy Glidden. Photos that are submitted will be returned to you in May. Thank You!

***Ladies Day** at East Main church of Christ on Saturday, April 30th.



A Bridal Shower is planned in honor of **Madison Pepper** on Sunday, April 10th from 2-4 p.m. Madison is registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Target and Wal-Mart. She is the daughter of **Alan & Agnes Pepper.**

March 20, 2016

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www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	
Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm
Wednesday	
Ladies Morning Bible Class	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Fred Rogers
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Larry Benson
Michael Bowman
Craig Buckner
Bob Hoover

Andy Melton
Brian Melton
Alan Pepper
Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

March 13, 2016

Sunday	AM worship	215
	Bible classes	175
	PM worship	127
	Contribution	\$5,763.50

Wednesday PM Bible classes 116

Wednesday AM Ladies Class (Sept-May) 14

**When county schools are closed due to inclement weather
AM Ladies Class will be cancelled**

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15
minutes prior to services!



March 20

Chris Martin
Jeff & Karen Milstead

March 27

Louise Smithson
Dean Thompson

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!

We were honored by your presence!