
The Book of Ezekiel



As clean as a whistle



In the Old Covenant, along with sacrifices, the people had to make sure they went through the ritual washing procedures, so that they could do everything that was needed

While the ritual washing was considered a good work, God says here that He Himself will sprinkle water upon the people, hinting at how Holy Baptism would rescue even the unworthy

Which seeming good works are people the proudest of today? Can you think of a specific time you felt relief that Jesus has done all the work for you?

They've gotta go

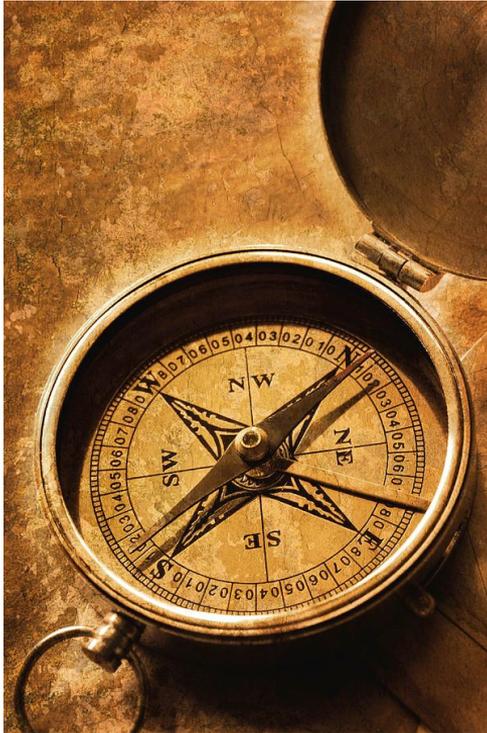


When God inscribes His name on a person in Holy Baptism, a transformation takes place and there are things that must be left behind for the person's own good

In this case, people leave their old heart and old spirit, which were both inclined to wickedness and could not be reasoned with, but they receive a new heart and a new spirit in return

To which old habits and desires do people most strongly cling? What does the process of being pruned away look like? What specific hope is offered to those in withdrawal?

My Compass



Once these new parts are implemented, the people were also given an internal compass, or conscience, to know right from wrong, good from evil, God's ways from the ways of the world

It's the same with all believers, because once our hearts are changed, God strengthens our faith and makes us holier through the process of sanctification, even though we still fall into sin

When might you feel your internal compass guiding you? When might it become confused? Where can we become reoriented?

By Your hand



In order for them to stay and have stability in the land, God causes the grain to sprout up and the fruit to ripen, so that they can have food

Human wisdom might say that crops grow of their own accord, but here we see that without God, nothing could grow or even survive

Where do you see God sustaining or providing, that could be overlooked? Which explanations are given for continued success or stability? How might we train ourselves to see God's hand in everything?
