

Daily Devotion For February 9, 2022

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Psalm 51:7

The past week I have been reading Facebook posts from a friend in Sapporo. I spent three winters there from 1983 to 1986 where there is snow on the ground 6 months out of the year. This missionary friend posted pictures of the huge storms they have been having and stated this is a record breaking snowfall for Hokkaido. It was nostalgic to see her post of the Sapporo Snow Festival which takes place the first week of February each year.

I remember taking the last subway from Sapporo Station to the Azabu Station after finishing work and walking in a meter of snow each evening around midnight. It was so beautiful to see the smooth and untouched snow falling in the darkness of the night. Although it was cold, it was such a refreshing and exhilarating feeling.

Often as I walked, I remember that Christ covered our sinful and stubborn nature and made us white as snow. King David wrote in Psalm 51:7, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

The word for "cleansed" literally means "un-sin." Imagine being able to push and "undo" button, like on your keyboard, to wipe out something wrong you have done. Hyssop was a plant with brush-like branches, and in ancient Israel it was used for purification rites. Moses dipped a hyssop branch in blood and used it to sprinkle people and objects to declare them purified. It was also the hyssop branch that was used to spread blood on the doorframes of Israelite houses at Passover.

Thought For Today: What does it mean to you that the blood of Jesus purifies you from all sin and makes you white as snow?

Today's Prayer Focus: Thank God that the blood of Jesus cleanses you from all sin and makes you as white as snow. Deo Volente.