

## Cleansing *Numbers 19:1-22*

### **1. The Burning (v1-10)**

- Red heifer, cedarwood, hyssop, scarlet wool: all symbols of purity → burnt outside the camp
- Priest and clean people → become unclean
- Human purity and cleanliness are fragile

### **2. Death and Uncleanliness (v11-16)**

- How to become unclean: touching a dead human body, entering or being in a tent where someone dies, touching a human bone or a grave (in addition to Numbers 5:2)
- They must be cleansed with water of cleansing on the third and seventh days
- Frustration in having to be holy and pure → the frustration of all humanity

### **3. The Cleansing (v17-22)**

- The ashes are put in a jar with clean water → sprinkled onto the unclean people and things
- The unclean people become clean, the clean people become unclean???

### **4. Jesus and Us**

- The paradox in this ritual points to the cross → the holy, who became a curse, so he might lift our curse
- Application 1: Rest in the finished work of Christ → no need for this ritual!
- Application 2: Continue to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit!

***May we put our hope only in the blood of Jesus!***