

## Year Of The Rabbit



The rabbit is a gentle and cuddly pet. Its tender and delicious meat is relished by some. It is the fourth animal in the Chinese zodiac. The Bible declares the rabbit an unclean animal that was not to be eaten by the Old Testament people of God.<sup>1</sup> What appears lovable and harmless to man is judged ceremonially unclean by God!

The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was intended to teach us that there are such values as right and wrong, good and bad, and clean and unclean. In other words, the holy God is teaching us that there are moral and spiritual values in His sight. With time, it became clear that man is regarded as unclean in the sight of God. “There is none righteous, no, not one.”<sup>2</sup> The actions and behaviour of man are unclean because his heart is unclean.<sup>3</sup>

The true purpose of the ceremonial law was perverted by the religious people in the days of Jesus Christ. These religious people tried to find fault with others for not keeping to certain traditions. They were very meticulous in washing their hands in a certain way before they ate. They put on such a show of fasting and prayer. Jesus Christ warned His disciples not to follow them.<sup>4</sup>

Today, many people continue to make much of external religion while failing to see their own inner corruption. They think that their religious rituals and good deeds will win them merit to heaven, but how mistaken they are!<sup>5</sup> To enter heaven, we need a perfect righteousness that is found only in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He came to die on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for sinners. Whoever repents and believes in Him will be declared no more guilty by God. Instead, he will be treated as righteous because the perfect righteousness of Christ is now considered his.<sup>6</sup>

Come, trust in Jesus Christ! He alone gives eternal life!

1. Lev. 11:6; Deut. 14:7 2. Rom. 3:10 3. Mark 7:21-23 4. Matt. 6:16, 5-6 5. Isaiah 64:6 6. Rom. 5:8; 3:21-22

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## 兔年



兔子是一种温顺可爱的宠物。其肉质鲜嫩可口，深受人们喜爱。它在中国十二生肖中排行第四。圣经宣称兔子是不洁的动物，在旧约中上帝的子民是不可以吃的。<sup>1</sup> 人类看来可爱又无害的动物，在仪式上被上帝判定为不洁净！

旧约的礼仪律法是要教导我们对与错、好与坏、洁净与不洁净的价值观。换句话说，圣洁的上帝教导我们，在他眼中有道德价值和属灵价值。随着时间的推移，显然人在上帝眼中被视为不洁。“没有义人，连一个也没有。”<sup>2</sup> 人的行为是不洁的，因为他的心是不洁的。<sup>3</sup>

在耶稣基督的时代，宗教人士歪曲了礼仪律法的真正目的。这些宗教人士试图找出他人不遵守某些传统的错误。他们在吃饭前会以某种繁琐的方式洗手。他们显摆禁食祷告的样子。耶稣基督警告他的门徒不要跟随他们。<sup>4</sup>

现今，许多人继续重视宗教的形式，却看不到自己内心的腐败。他们认为他们的宗教仪式和善行会为他们赢得上天堂的功德，但他们大错特错了！<sup>5</sup> 要进入天堂，我们需要真正而完美的公义，而这唯有在神子耶稣基督里才能找着。他作为罪人完美的赎罪祭死在十字架上。凡悔改并信靠耶稣基督的人，上帝宣判为无罪。相反的，他将被视为义人，因为现在基督真正而完美的公义被当成是他的。<sup>6</sup>

来吧，相信耶稣基督！唯独他赐予永生！

1. 利 11:6; 申 14:7 2. 罗 3:10 3. 可 7:21-23 4. 太 6:16, 5-6 5. 赛 64:6 6. 罗 5:8; 3:21-22