

“THE PRIEST WITH DIRTY CLOTHES”

Zechariah 3

Pastor Steve Cavallaro

I. Why do we need to seek redemption anyway? (vv. 1 – 3)

“Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD”

“Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him” “wine mixed with myrrh”

“clothed with filthy garments”

All have _____ and need _____.

“Guilt and corruption are our two great discouragements when we stand before God.”

-Matthew Henry

“It is all true, Satan, and many more sins I have committed in my life which are known to God only; but write at the bottom of your list, “the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanses us from all sin.””

-Martin Luther writing to Philip Melanchthon

“Let Satan hurl all the charges he dare- the basis of my acceptance with God stands firm and secure.”

-Derek Thomas

“It is by our own folly that we give Satan advantage against us and furnish him with matter for reproach and accusation; and if any thing be amiss, especially with the priests, Satan will be sure to aggravate it and make the worst of it.”

-Matthew Henry

II. What is the solution for the priest with dirty clothes, and us? (vv. 4, 8 – 9)

Agnosticism: do more good than bad & hope for the best.

Rome: _____ + works = justification (acceptance with God)

“remove the filthy garments from him.”

“I have taken your iniquity away from you, and will clothe you with pure vestments.”2nd, “the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another”

I will bring my servant the Branch”

“I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.”

Faith in Christ / atonement ➔ Justification

Jesus replaces our dirty clothes with clean clothes in _____.

Romans 3:23 – 25; 8:32 – 34

2 Corinthians 5:21

1 Peter 2:4 – 5

Branch: Isaiah 4, 11; Jeremiah 23, 33; Zechariah 6

Stone: Isaiah 8, 28; Daniel 2

WSC Question 33: What is justification?

Answer: Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

WSC Question 87: What is repentance unto life?

Answer: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

III. Rome charges us with _____ grace. Are they right? (vv. 5 – 7, 10)

"Let them put a clean turban on his head."

"walk in my way and keep my charge"

Faith in Christ → justification + _____

Discipleship → *"charge of my courts ... right of access"*: communion & responsibility

"invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree"

Jesus gives us clean clothes so we can _____.

Ephesians 2:8 – 10

Jude 21 – 23

"Let us learn to rely on the gratuitous adoption of God, if we would boldly exult against Satan and all his assaults." -Sinclair Ferguson

"So much as we see of the love of God, so much shall we delight in Him, and no more. Every other discovery of God, without this, will but make the soul fly from Him." -Derek Thomas

BIG IDEA: Jesus saves us to serve Him

"I have a tender reliance on the mercy of the Almighty, through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a sinner. I look to Him for mercy; pray for me."

-Alexander Hamilton

Going Deeper:

1. When you sin, what is your default: ignore it, run & hide from God, try harder, or repent? Why? Are you minimizing your sin or God's mercy?
2. How is the work of Christ for us revealed in this text?
3. Is Christ outside you or do you receive and rest on Christ alone for salvation?
4. How is your faith expressing itself? Are you praying for others' salvation? Committed to discipleship? Inviting others to faith?