

THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST.

TOPIC: I AM CLEAN.

TEXT: 1 JOHN 1:9, PSALM 51:10, EPHESIANS 2:10, ZECH 3:1-7

Introduction:

Before Christ saved us all of us were as dirty as filthy rags. Romans 3 begins with "as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one" It is referring to a passage in Isaiah 64:6.

God removes our filthy garments and replaces them with Christ robe of righteousness. Satan will tell us we are still dirty with his shame tactics, and many times we fall for it. This is why it is critical to know who we are in Christ and to continue in the Word to build that faith in our heart.

1. Putting the Accuser in His Place – Zechariah 3:1-3

The Lord revealed to the prophet Zechariah a heavenly scene in which Satan's accusations of God's people are put into proper perspective:

He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.....

2. The Lord Rebukes Satan – Zechariah 3:1-3

The cast of characters in this scene are assembled in a heavenly courtroom. The judge is God the Father. The prosecuting attorney is Satan. The defence attorney is Jesus. The accused defendant is Joshua the high priest, who represents all of God's people. Historically, it was a very solemn occasion: Each year, on behalf of the people of Israel, the high priest was to enter the holy of holies on the Day of Atonement.

Before doing so, he was to perform elaborate purification rites and ceremonial cleansings. Only then could he enter into God's presence. If he wasn't right before God, he could be struck dead on the spot. The high priest wore bells on the hem of his robe so that those who were outside the holy of holies could tell whether he was still alive and moving.

Q: What does the above illustration tells us about Jesus as our High Priest?

3. We are Forgiven – 1 John 2:1-2

In the vision, Joshua, the high priest, is standing in God's presence with filthy garments that represent the sins of Israel. Not a good thing! Satan the accuser says, "Look at him, God. He's filthy. He deserves to be struck dead." At the same time, the defence attorney is standing there saying, "Look at My hands and My feet. I took the penalty for their sins."

God the Father then pronounces the sentence, **“Not guilty,”** and rebukes the accuser, putting him in his place. “You’re not the judge, and you cannot pass sentence on My people. I have rescued Joshua from the flames of hell, and your accusations are groundless.”

This courtroom scene continues night and day for every child of God. Satan persists in pointing out our faults and weaknesses to God. In the meantime, God is saying to every believer,

- a. Jesus *“is able also to save forever those who draw near to God ...”(Hebrews 7:25).*
- b. We have been invited to come into His presence with... **(Ephesians 3:12).**
- c. So *“let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance (Hebrews 10:22).*

4. The Lord Removes Our Filthy Garments – Zechariah 3:4-5 ESV

The reason **Satan’s accusations are groundless** is because God has solved the problem of our filthy garments. Zechariah’s description of the heavenly scene continues: He spoke and said to those who were standing before him, saying, **“Remove the filthy garments from him.”**

Q: What is the implication of the removed filthy garment?

Conclusion – The Lord Admonishes Us to Respond

God has not only declared us forgiven, He has also removed our filthy garments of unrighteousness and clothed us with His righteousness. ***Notice that the change of wardrobe is something that God does, not we ourselves. We don’t have any garments of righteousness to put on that will satisfy God. Our armour against Satan’s accusations is the breastplate of righteousness, which is placed on us when we put on the Lord Jesus Christ. [this reminds us of the Prodigal son’s father putting a new robe on him].***

Now that we are forgiven and clothed in Christ’s righteousness, there is work to be done. *“If you will walk in My ways and if you will perform My service, then you will also govern My house and also have charge of My courts, and I will grant you free access among these who are standing here”* (Zechariah 3:7). We have been let out of jail to perform community service, but there is a difference. Community service is not punishment, nor is it even a part of our rehabilitation. Having access to God, we are free to serve Him and others out of gratitude. *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, (Ephesians 2:10).*