

**THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST.**

**TOPIC: I AM CLEAN.**

**TEXT: 1 JOHN 1:9, ZECHARIAH 3:1-7; PSALM 32:51; 51:2; PROVERBS 28:13**

**Introduction:**

Before Christ saved us, all of us were as dirty as filthy rags 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.

Our study today is centred on the revelation the Lord gave to Prophet Zechariah, a heavenly scene in which Satan's accusations of God's people are put into proper perspective:

**1. The Heavenly Court Room 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. A rope was tied around his ankle so he could be pulled out in case he was struck dead, for no other priest was permitted to go in to find out how the high priest was doing.

**Q:** How does this scenario helps us in appreciating Jesus as our defence attorney?

**2. We Are Forgiven (Not Guilty Verdict) – 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."

**Q:** Why is the "Not Guilty" Verdict important to us as believers in our walk?

**3. Our Non Guilty Plea Is Settled forever – 1 John 1:9**

This courtroom scene continues night and day for every child of God. Satan persists in pointing out our faults and weaknesses to God and demands that He zaps us for being less than perfect. In the meantime, God is saying to every believer,

- a. *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you..... (1 John 2:1-2).*
- b. Jesus "*is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them*" (**Hebrews 7:25**).
- c. *We have been invited to come into His presence with boldness and confidence (Ephesians 3:12)*

d. So *“let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith”* (Hebrews 10:22).

Q: Is Jesus settlement of our sin forever a license for us to sin?

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

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

**God has not only declared us forgiven, He has 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.

Q: Which other story does this explanation reminds us of in the NT? (Luke 15)

#### Conclusion – The Lord Admonishes Us to Respond

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, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10).