

Week of November 15, 2009

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Monday

Zech. 3:3-4 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the angel. He spoke and said to those who were standing before him, saying, "Remove the filthy garments from him." Again he said to him, "See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes."

There is no use in pretending nor in denying the truth, your sin stinks, is putrid, repugnant to eye and nose. God reveals it as so. The words that describe it are those of septic tanks. What is more, God says, "all have sinned." But it's not sin that is the final focus of God's word, but God's wonderful cleansing and forgiveness. For in Christ, God has redeemed you, washed you, and made you whole. The contrast is astounding. At the moment of salvation Jesus takes away our stain and satisfies our debt. Now He cloths you in festal robes.

Tuesday

Zech. 3:2 The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

Accosted by Satan? It is to be expected. From Job, to Joshua, to Jesus our Lord, Satan never tires of accosting the saints. He rages before the throne at the lack of our worth and filth of our sin. He rises to accuse us, to deflate us, and if possible to defeat us. Yet God has the final word. The devil was defeated on the cross and his accusations come to nothing, for Jesus has paid the price for our sins. Satan will continue to bark and attempt by his howling to paralyze you with fear and doubt. But his fangs are removed and his bark is hollow, Jesus is our advocate of grace.

Wednesday

Zech. 3:7 ... "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.."

God not only redeems you from sin, He not only offers you clean garments, but as if it was deserved, He grants to you a place of service and a promise of access to the very throne of God. Oh, to understand what a wonderful, gracious offer God brings to you. He did not save you to shelve you, but to make you useful and employed. Pray to hear and respond to His call of service and use.

Thursday

Zech. 3:8 'Now listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who are sitting in front of you — indeed they are men who are a symbol, for behold, I am going to bring in My servant the Branch.

Here is the promise of Messiah given 500 years before Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. The work of redemption, whether in the Old Testament or the New, points solidly, securely, and exclusively to Jesus. He is the "Branch," whose advent was promised a half century before His arrival. It is His life, death, and resurrection that brings peace with God, eternal life, and purpose for living now. All that we have flows forth from His hand and from His grace. He is the perfect Son of God and perfect High Priest for us. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus – there's something marvelous in that Name!

Friday

Zech. 4:6 ... "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

When God calls you to a task or ministry you can walk in confidence, for He does not call you to accomplish anything of your own strength. He will go before you in preparation and He will go with you in strength. Indeed, to work in your own strength leads to failure, burn out, and ineffective work. It was in weakness that Paul declared the strength of God. It is not by the strong but by those dependent upon Him that God accomplishes His greatest work. Count on God. Trust in God. Minister in the power of God. Your willingness + His strength = Great Things!