

Sunday Service - PVIC – 11/06/2016

Sermon Series: Rags to Robes – VI (Outline)

**Can our New Garment get Stained? How can it be Restored?**

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“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 Jn. 1:8-9

Introduction

In the previous sessions, we discussed the Meaning, Cost and Value, Significance, Importance and the various Symbolic representations of the Garment we receive from Christ when we accept him as our Savior. This morning I want to raise a question before you: “Can this precious Garment get Stained; and if it does, can it be cleansed again?”

Can our New Garment get Stained?

We’ve been justified - accepted as righteous before God, and we, being the body of Christ, are the true representation of Christ in this world! The question is, ‘can this righteous garment’ we received from God be stained?’ The answer is very direct and simple: “yes, we’re capable to sin again; and if we do not walk daily with God, we’ll fall into sin like anyone else!” We read in 1 Jn. 1:8, “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

Can this stained Righteous Garment be restored? How is it possible?

If it was not possible, not a single person, from the time of Christ to this day will be saved – all will be lost; and Christ’s great sacrifice on the Cross would be for nothing! We read in the same passage, the next verse (v.9) “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” What a wonderful assurance we’ve in Christ Jesus! Thank God the salvation our Lord gave us is not like ‘walking on a tight rope!’

We are saved by His grace, not by any of our good deeds; we’re kept also by the same grace – we do not stand a chance, if it was dependent on our own strength!

We can find the perfect image of the stained garment being restored, in the book of Zech. 3:1-4. Here, Prophet Zechariah sees a vision of the high priest, Joshua standing before God! Although he was the high priest, his priestly garment was filthy! It is noticeable what the Lord says to the Satan who was actively engaged in accusing Joshua: “Is this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?” While Joshua’s condition was unjustifiable – his clothes were filthy, he justifies him on the basis of the redemption that would take place centuries later on the Cross!

Conclusion

As I’m closing, may I ask you to stand and thank the Lord for snatching us out of each of our unique situation where we were already burning by the hell’s fire! Thank God he clothed us with himself as our eternal garment!

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