

Noteworthy

Teachers' Meeting: Today at 5pm—in order to discuss next year's teaching schedule.
Our Gospel Meeting: Begins this Friday evening! Brad Sullivan will be preaching a series of lessons on “commitment” during our weekend meeting (Sept. 25-27). Let's be encouraged to invite our family and friends to attend.
Men's Meeting: October 4th at the building (4:30pm).
Kids' Review Class: October 4th, shortly after the PM service.
Afternoon Singing: Our next afternoon sing will be conducted on October 11th at 5pm.
Ladies' Bible Class: Resumes on Mon., Oct. 12th. There is a new sign-up sheet in the foyer for duties to contribute with. All of the women are encouraged to be involved!
Prayer Requests: Reagan Cunningham, Betty Eubanks, Linda James, Butch Morgan, Wayne Ryland (ongoing medical), the Stevens family, and Mike Sadler (had another procedure last week; is recovering well).
Our friends and family: Joe Brown (prostate cancer), Jim Abram (test results were inconclusive for why Jim passed out & had to go to the hospital; but he is in good spirits, recovering). Diane Anderson (Linda's sister), Elnora Bennet (Moses Stevens' sister), Mildred Church (shut-in), Canera Wisdom (Larry Wisdom's mother). Ruth and Leon's brother-in-law (Harold Gilbert) passed away last week. Let us keep their family in our thoughts and prayers.
Group Meeting: Group (1) meets tonight after worship. We encourage all to participate in this good work.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 9/23/15

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Invitation: Nick Ross
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Parking Lot: Ed Lawson

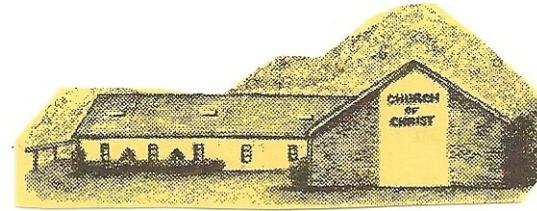
Sunday Evening: 9/27/15

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Colby Sadler
 Lord's Table: Charles Rawdon
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

Sunday Morning: 9/27/15

Lord's Table: Charles Rawdon (B)
 Ben Cunningham (C)
 Serving: Eddie Lawson
 Trent Stevens
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Bob Marschall

Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Wayne Ryland
 Parking Lot: (9:00) David Williams
 (9:50) Mike Sadler



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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SERVICES

Sunday
 Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
 Morning Services 9:50 A.M.
 Evening Services 6:00 P.M.
 Wednesday
 Bible Study 7:30 P.M.

DEACONS:

Robert Marschall
 Charles Rawdon
 Michael Sadler
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

***“See, I Have Removed the Iniquity from You,
 and will Clothe You with Rich Robes”***

When sin is committed, a stern rebuke may be in order. But sometimes the one who committed an offense will repent, only to face lingering feelings of shame and self-doubt. After some time, if that guilt is not dealt with properly, even a penitent child of God may grow *so discouraged* that he fails to achieve his true potential. When one is truly penitent and does the works befitting of repentance, they might need some encouragement.

A wonderful illustration of this can be found in the writings of Zechariah. A remnant of God's people *had* returned from Captivity, but they *had not* been doing the work God intended for them to accomplish. So for not completing the building of the temple, Haggai had to *sternly rebuke* the people (Haggai 1:4). If they were to pick up the pieces and finish the work that God intended for them though, they would need some positive reinforcement! Zechariah was therefore called by God to instruct the people concerning the temple's glorious future; and his visions were filled with promises to instill *hope*. So many images were described concerning God's future plans for the people, but consider the vision in chapter 3 in light of the above paragraph. Zechariah chapter three reads...

"Then he showed me **Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.** ² **And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"**

³ **Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.** ⁴ **Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes."**

⁵ **And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him.** **And the Angel of the LORD stood by.** ⁶ **Then the Angel of the LORD admonished Joshua, saying,** ⁷ **"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My command, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here.'** ⁸ **'Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.** ⁹ **For behold, the stone that I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone are**

seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its inscription,' Says the Lord of hosts, 'And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. ¹⁰ In that day,' says the Lord of hosts, 'Everyone will invite his neighbor Under his vine and under his fig tree.' " (Zechariah 3:1-10)

This high priest (Joshua), many students believe, is a symbolic representative of the people who had returned from Captivity. The people were meant to be "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6), but the nation (including the priests) at that time had been brought to near destruction because of their idolatrous past! Therefore, the cleansing of Joshua represented *not only his* cleansing, but the cleansing of his fellow priests, along with the whole nation that they served. Of course, the message of this chapter ultimately foretold the future blessings of the Messianic age as well.

Consider some possible applications that the child of God today can take away from the context. As the people of Zechariah's day considered their own idolatrous past, and also how *they'd just recently* neglected the work that God had commanded them to do in rebuilding the temple; do you suppose that they felt any guilt and/or shame for their shortcomings? I'm certain that those

with tender hearts did! Do you suppose that Satan would then want for those tender-hearted individuals to remain in their feelings of guilt, or would he want for them to press forward with the work that God had ordained for them to accomplish? The answer is in the text... Satan stood to oppose!

Understand that Satan does not want for you (or me) to be set free from the guilt of even one of our sins! Nor does Satan want you to be comforted by God's promises, even if you are *truly* penitent! Satan stands to oppose *you*, even today! And he intends very much for you to *remain* in guilt, *linger* in the feelings of shame, and for you to *wallow* in thoughts of self-doubt, in order that you drop out of the fight against evil altogether (2 Corinthians 2:6-11)! God however, does not will for you to drop out of that fight!! If you are willing to accept responsibility for your actions and submit to Him, then God has a wonderful plan in redeeming you. If you will approach Him in humility, then *He will rebuke Satan* on your behalf (Zechariah 3:2; Revelation 12:10)! But only if you repent and approach God in humility, will He take away the "filthy garments" from you (James 4:6-10)! If you will thus do as He commands, God is willing and capable of removing your iniquity, and even will clothe *you* with

"rich robes" (Zechariah 3:4; Revelation 19:8)! Isn't that a wonderful blessing? If you will walk in God's ways and keep His command, then you shall be given peace and security in God's spiritual kingdom (Zechariah 3:7; Hebrews 5:9).

When sin is committed by a child of God, a stern rebuke may be in order. Outward displays of penitence are in order as well (2 Corinthians 7:10). But if you have truly repented, and are still struggling with feelings of shame and self-doubt, please do not allow Satan to achieve his goal (2 Corinthians 2:7, 11). If you desire to press on to better things with a *pure heart*, and indeed are *striving to do* the works befitting of repentance, then *take courage!* Remember the encouragement God provided those who had returned from Captivity. What a wonderful passage of comfort for us to consider—that God may say of us... **"See, I have removed the iniquity from you, and will clothe you with rich robes."**

(All Verses quoted from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible. Bold type was added by me for emphasis.)

- By Ian Rice