

The Second Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 6, 2020

“Prepare Him Room: The Branch”

Jeremiah 23:1-8

“‘The days are surely coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will raise up to David a righteous branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness.’” (Jeremiah 23:6)

Righteous = *tsadaq* =

It was often used to refer to a standard of _____, and had the connotation of being still or _____.

God is telling the people that their lives will be measured by His _____ and not the standards of the world.

In contrast to God’s righteousness, is our _____ and propensity for _____.

“What then? Are Jew any better off? Not at all. For we have already made the charge that Jews and Greek alike are all under sin. As it is written: ‘None is righteous, no, not one...’ (Romans 3:9)

This is our natural human state _____ from God, a state that none can escape.

“For everyone has sinned, we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (Romans 3:23)

Sin _____ us from God because sin can’t stand in God’s presence.

“For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.” (Psalm 5:4)

Sin makes us _____ of righteousness and truth, and even though we may try to deny it or hide it, it will always _____ with us.

“For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

We can try to make ourselves righteous by the things we _____. Indeed, under the old covenant, the people of Israel believed that if they kept all of God’s _____ then they’d be right with God.

The Law was _____ to keep, and only served to show how far they had fallen short of God’s standard.

“For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20)

The problem with the law was it made morality and righteousness all about _____.

The heart of the problem is the human _____. God doesn’t want our _____ actions—He doesn’t want our religion—if He can’t first have our heart.

There’s nothing we can do in our own _____ to make ourselves righteous. In fact, without God, all our righteous deeds are _____! (Is. 64:6).

“The soul who sins will die.” (Ezekiel 18:4)

“For the wages of sin is death.” (Roman’s 6:23)

God, in His great mercy, knowing that we were _____ and helpless, extended His _____ to us to save us from our _____ and sin and death.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God promised the coming of a _____ who would not only rule over His people with righteousness, but who would _____ their righteousness. We see the _____ of this prophecy in the person of Jesus, who has made us right with God through His blood on the cross.

“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. (Romans 3:21-26)

Righteousness can’t be _____, bought, or bargained for—it can’t be obtained by our own _____ or ingenuity—it’s imputed to us—given to us—by God. Jesus **is** the Righteous _____ that Jeremiah spoke of; and through the cross He has _____ on our behalf to rescue us, redeem, us, and restore us.

3 ASPECTS OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IN CHRIST

#1. In Jesus, our Righteous Branch, we are _____. Jesus bought our _____.

“He gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone.” (1 Timothy 2:6)

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight...” (Ephesians 1:7)

Redemption = *apolytrosis* =

It was commonly used to refer to _____ that were purchased in a marketplace. In a spiritual sense, we were all slaves to sin until Jesus _____ us and set us _____.

- We can be slaves to _____.

“Don’t be a slave of your desires living like people who don’t know God.” (1 Thess. 4:5)

**Are you a slave to your desires—whatever they may be?
What addictions or ungodly passions hold you captive?**

- We can be slaves to _____.

“God bought you for a price so do not become slaves to people.” (1 Corinthians 7:23)

We become slaves to other people when we live for the _____ of others.

Whose approval do you seek—God’s or man’s?

“Freedom is what we have. Christ has set us free. So stand then as free people and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.” (Galatians 5:1)

Without the on-going strength and support of the _____, it’s easy for us to fall back into slavery.

“We can never redeem ourselves. We cannot pay God the price for our lives because the payment for human life is too great.” (Psalm 49:7)

**#2. In Jesus, our Righteous Branch, we are _____ to God. Jesus
_____ our relationship with God.**

Reconciliation involves bringing groups together who have been _____ by _____.

We were God’s enemies but He made us His friends through the death of His Son. (Rom.5:10)

“Christ changed us from enemies into His friends and gave us the task of making others His friends also...” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

Jesus is our _____ and _____—our Great High Priest—who brings us into the light of God’s presence—and we can come _____ to the throne of grace.

We are not _____ to come to God on our own; however, we’re _____ worthy through Christ and can come to Him in Jesus’ name.

**#3. In Jesus, our Righteous Branch, we are _____. Jesus gave us a new
_____.**

Our identity is much deeper than that—who we are is more of an internal, _____ reality than just an external, _____ reality. The change that Jesus offers us is so _____, so profound that Scripture likens it to _____—to becoming a _____ person.

“God saved us because of His mercy and not because of any good things that we have done. He washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit. He gave us new birth and a fresh beginning.” (Titus 3:5)

“Anyone who belongs to Christ becomes a new person. The past is forgotten and everything is new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

This is _____ process, as we walk this spiritual reality out in partnership with the _____ everyday.

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Jesus came to replace _____ with _____. Religion says; “I will find a way to _____ myself righteous enough to be accepted by God.” Relationship says; “I will _____ Jesus as my righteousness.”

We will never be good enough to _____ our way into heaven—and we can never _____ enough. The only way we can be saved is to _____ Christ’s righteousness.

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**Have you accepted what was won for you on the Cross?
Have you accepted God’s free gift in Christ?**