

THE PROMISE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Zechariah 3

Mark, the righteousness is still "in him," not "in us"; even then when we are made partakers of the benefit of it, even as the wing and feathers still abide in the hen when the chickens are covered, kept, and warmed thereby. For as my doings, though my children are fed and clothed thereby, are still my doings, not theirs, so the righteousness wherewith we stand just before God from the curse still resides in Christ, not in us. Our sins when laid upon Christ were yet personally ours, not his; so his righteousness when put upon us is yet personally his, not ours. What is it, then? Why, "he was made to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him," 2 Cor. 5:21.

John Bunyan

You will remember that in Scripture Christ's Righteousness is compared to fair white linen; then I am, if I wear it, without spot! It is compared to worked gold; then I am, if I wear it, dignified and beautiful, and worthy to sit at the wedding feast of the King of kings! It is compared, in the Parable of the prodigal son, to the best robe; then I wear a better robe than angels have, for they have not the best! But I, poor prodigal, once clothed in rags, companion to the nobility of the sty—I, fresh from the husks that swine do eat, am nevertheless clothed in the best robe, and am so accepted in the Beloved!

Charles Spurgeon

- I. **ACCUSING:** Our unrighteousness leaves us standing accused before God (1).

- II. **ADVOCATING:** Only the righteousness of God can deal with our accusing guilt (2-5).

- III. **ASSURING:** The righteousness of God is our assurance amid doubt and fear (6-9).

- IV. **ANNOUNCING:** The righteousness of God spreads as Good News (10).