

## Rags to Riches

**“Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved. But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.”** Isaiah 64:5~8

These four attributes of God we can have, taking us from where we are to where He wants us to be.

### Justification

1. the act, process, or state of being justified by God
2. a: the act or an instance of justifying; vindication b: something that justifies
3. the process or result of justifying lines of text

Great or small; sin is sin. Therefore we must go through the process God has put in place; which is to seek Him, repent and be justified. I Corinthians 6:9~11 says; **“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”** When we are justified we are absolved of guilt. We are proven, shown to be just. God will judge us, regard us and treat us as righteous and worthy of salvation. So take no thought of your raiment; the sinful rags we wear because of the circumstances, the situations, the relationships that we have put on as we sought to conform to the world. As abusers, drunkards and filled with greed we can not hope to gain the inheritance, the Kingdom.

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, for the law can never make us acceptable to God. No amount of legislation with good intentions, no

commander or king can order it; we must be justified by the faith of Christ Jesus. Put on the raiment of a new man, crucify the flesh, bury the past, resurrect with the Spirit we were created to carry, and ascend to the life, power and dominion that was stolen and yet restored.

### Sanctification

Exodus 31:13 says; **“Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.”**

Having been justified, God sets us apart for a holy purpose which is the meaning of sanctification. Before the foundation of the world, God chose us with the gifts He has caused to be bestowed upon us, and set us apart. He sanctified us that we may do His will, the call that is life. A holy purpose being the edifying of the Body, not isms and schisms. Yes setting each of us individually apart so that we may come to love one another as He has so often commanded us. Having been absolved of guilt and set apart for holy purposes, we can only do as Christ Jesus and live a life for the glory of God. 2 Thessalonians 2:13~14 says; **“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

### Righteousness

Deuteronomy 6:25 says; **“And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us.”**

The righteous go the way of obedience. Choosing not to sin. Temptations or tests we should respond to by creating an environment where sin is rebuked and cast out. Not a place where sin is used as an excuse for our weaknesses, our disobedience. We cannot use the often quoted partial verse “...we all fall short...” to cover our gossip, our backsliding, our turning away from the one who has commanded us to observe His commandments. Psalm 24:3~5 says; **“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”**

## Salvation

The state of being saved from sin or evil.

The Way that is Jesus, the highway that can only be traversed by the righteous; is available to all that accept the actions of Christ Jesus. We as being saved, have given our rags to Jesus, who freely accepted them on the road to the cross. In return He paid a ransom worth more than all the kingdoms of man that ever has been or will be, combined. Additionally we will receive the reward He has for us, everlasting riches.

Isaiah 35:8~10 says; **“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”**