

Sunday, January 20, 2019
Transforming Grace
“Grace’s justifying righteousness”
Zechariah 3:1-5
Wayne Shelton

(focal: 4b: *Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.*)

What does it mean to be justified? One of the best places to see this is in a strange story from the Old Testament prophet Zechariah in chapter 3 verses 1-5. In his dream, the prophet witnessed Joshua the high priest standing before the Lord dressed in filthy clothes, with Satan standing by to accuse him. And anyone who knows what kind of clothes the high priest was supposed to wear, and how dangerous it was to enter God’s holy sanctuary, would immediately recognize that Joshua is a dead man.

But this is where the story gets amazing, because God did not punish the high priest after all. God himself suddenly intervened, showing the life-changing grace of his forgiveness for sinners. God did this by removing Joshua’s filthy clothes and replacing them with righteous robes. There was nothing Joshua could do to save himself. It was all by grace – the undeserved mercy of God. God accepted him. God took away his sin. God made him holy. God promises the same for us today.

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