

## YEHOVAH TSIDQENUW

***Jeremiah 23:5*** Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

***Jeremiah 23:6*** In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

Imagine not only borrowing, but forever owning, the righteousness of God almighty himself! This is precisely what God offers us in baptism in Jesus name – a permanent donning of his body, his righteousness. It is common to the human condition to seek to model and mimic someone else's behavior; those we consider to be worthy of emulation. Sadly, we try to imitate the speech, acts and even dress of so-called “trendsetters” or the contemporary “influencers”. This is perhaps why some wish to rebel against the universalization of culture today and desperately seek to be “original” or “authentic”. In so doing, humans can only reclaim their sinful and depraved identity in our first parents, Adam and Eve. Of this depraved identity, the apostle Paul writes:

***Romans 5:12*** Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

***Romans 7:12*** Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

***Romans 7:13*** Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

Notice there are two insurmountable problems one faces in Adam: the first is the inheritance of the nature of sin, and the second is the amplification of this sin through the introduction of the holy law of God. Put differently, death entered the world through the sin of Adam and the holy law of God at Sinai mercilessly revealed and demonstrated human inability to fulfil the standards of God, accordingly to the apostle Paul. The denouement of all this can be summed up thus: we must give up further attempts at establishing our own righteousness; all such attempts are doomed to failure and desperation. Why else do otherwise seemingly successful individuals suddenly and without warning terminate their lives? The world may express shock at the news, but many know deep within their souls that they too cannot seem to find contentment and fulfilment in life however successful and outwardly happy they may appear. Consider the world of fashion as a case in point: few, if any, in this world appear to have as many pieces of clothing as these people do. And, yet, you will be

hard-pressed to find a vocation where people are as ravaged by substance abuse as this group. Picture their emotionless, expressionless faces as they walk down the catwalk looking emaciated and anorexic. They stubbornly seek to persist in covering themselves with “fig leaves” as did Adam and Eve. Am I speaking to people who are tired of trying to establish their own righteousness? God has given us the solution: borrow his own righteousness, Jesus’ body.

***John 1:1*** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

***John 1:14*** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

God’s own word became flesh and God offers us this heavenly body as our righteous garment: he invites us to put on his own body – his righteousness. This body of Jesus we put on in baptism in Jesus name. “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27). Since we are invited to live in heaven for eternity with God, we must enter heaven with the only appropriate garment there is: the body of God. Just as earthly residences require earthly garments, the city of God, the New Jerusalem, demands a holy garment fit for its holy precincts. “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Corinthians 5:1). Jesus himself is the builder of this city and has commanded it, “let none enter who do not have my body”!

***Matthew 22:11*** *And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:*

***Matthew 22:12*** *And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless*

***Matthew 22:13*** *Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

This body is the greatest gift God has us. God brought wise men from the East to honor this body and commanded angels to worship it. “And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him” (Hebrews 1:6). Every wise person ought to study this body – it is the righteousness of God himself. None can condemn this body; every other creature has been condemned in the Fall of creation because of the sin of Adam, but the body of God is outside of creation. The only flesh that was not part of the seven-day creation is the body of God – Jesus Christ; it is free of sin and the Fall of creation. “And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of

this world; I am not of this world” (John 8:23). Brothers and Sisters, those who have put on this body, appreciate it, love it and hold on tightly to it – God has given you his righteousness! The fear of death is swallowed when one puts on the righteousness of God – his body – because this is the only material that has unrestricted access to heaven. “And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven” (John 3:13). The rich man in hell (Luke 16) would have given anything to put on the body of our Lord Jesus Christ just so he escape hell and transfer to heaven. Let us bless Jehovah our righteousness! A prince is honored, has access to the palace etc. only because of the origin of his body – the Prince of Norway did nothing to deserve his privileges; he carries the body of his father so to speak. We, too, need only to put on Christ in baptism in Jesus name and an entire world of blessings will be ours forever. Hallelujah! The Bible states that Herod’s garments shone and people glorified him as a god. He was slain because he took refuge in royal garments which had no righteousness.

**Act 12:21** *And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.*

**Act 12:22** *And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.*

**Act 12:23** *And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.*

What does this body eat? How is it nourished? The answer is simple: since the Word of God is its origin, the Word of God sustains it. “In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of (John 4:31, 32). This is why you are here studying the Word of God – you understand that a heavenly body eats heavenly food. “Man did eat angels’ food: he sent them meat to the full” (Psalm 78:25). Who would not want to be a messenger (angel) for Jesus? Let us, then, feast on the Word of God. May God grant us to keep his righteousness!

**Rev 3:4** *Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.*

**Rev 16:15** *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*