



Filthy Rags

By Terry Kountz on August 8, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Hebrews 9

Our culture teaches us that if we want to earn more we have to do more. Want that promotion? Come in early, stay late and help the company grow. Want to see your sports team advance to the next round? Practice more and play harder than the opposing team.

That same attitude can carry over into our spiritual lives. We believe we must do more and sacrifice more to earn God's love. But even our best works are "filthy rags." Nothing could bridge the gap between us and God except Jesus' obedience and sacrifice on our behalf (Isaiah 64:6).

In the Old Testament, only the high priest could enter God's presence to intercede for His people, and only after providing a sacrifice of blood. The sacrificial system provided a visible reminder of the separation sin places between God and His people. Through gifts and sacrifices, people could be made right with God, but they could not experience His presence. The sacrificial system was a temporary arrangement for the atonement of sin. The author of Hebrews lets us know that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was the final sacrifice that appeased God's wrath and atoned for sin. And by the blood that Jesus shed, we can have a relationship with God if we believe in Him.

God loved us so much that He sent His son, Jesus, and put an end to the separation once and for all. Jesus' death on the cross paid for our sin. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can experience God's presence. Instead of working to make God love us, we do good works because He loves us. There is nothing we can do to earn our way into God's favor. God offers that freely to those that love and believe in Him.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for sending Jesus to pay the penalty for my sin. Help me live for You and point others to You in all I do because of what You have done for me.

TOMORROW'S READING: Hebrews 10

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