

Filthy Rags

Isaiah 64:1-9

The unsaved person is “pure in his own eyes” (*Prov. 16:2; 30:12*) but filthy in God’s sight: “There is none righteous, no, not one, there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (*Rom. 3:10-12*).



No matter how much human good they do, those who are in the flesh (the unsaved) cannot please God (*Rom. 8:8*). Evil, unregenerate men can be good fathers (*Matt. 7:11*), good citizens, good soldiers, and they can be considerate, helpful and kind as judged by their peers. They can earn for themselves a wonderful eulogy at their funeral. **Yet, God does not see as man sees.** “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (*Isa. 64:6*).

All our righteous deeds are like blood-stained garments. The expression in the Hebrew means “menstrual cloths.” Such a blood-stained cloth carries this message: There is no conception, **no life**. God cannot be pleased with righteous deeds that are devoid of life. God is delighted as the believing heart allows the Lord Jesus to outwork **His life** in and through us: “Now the God of peace...make you perfect in every good work to do His will, **working in you that which is wellpleasing in His sight**, through Jesus Christ” (*Heb. 13:20-21*). “For **it is God which worketh in you** both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (*Phil. 2:13*). “Yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me” (*Gal. 2:20*).

Robed in His righteousness, this message is clear: **There is life because Christ lives in me!**

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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