

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

The Second Chance Series

SERMON 2: "Rescued From the Fire"

Zechariah 3: 1 – 4 (NKJV)

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The word "rescue" is defined as:

1. To set free or to deliver from danger
 2. To deliver from destruction
 3. To redeem
- The book of Zechariah is a very unique book.
 - It is one of the most important prophetic books in the Bible.
 - It offers detailed messianic references, which were clearly fulfilled in the life of Christ.
 - It is also one of the most apocalyptic books among all of the prophetic books.
 - It is addressed to the Jews in Jerusalem, who had returned from captivity in Babylon.
 - These exiles had returned to rebuild the temple, but the work had stalled.
 - They were discouraged and they felt dejected.
 - While they were working on the temple, all of their shortcomings were being thrown up in their faces by their enemies.
 - God, responding to the feelings of discouragement by His people, shared a vision with the prophet. This was one of eight visions shown to Zechariah.
 - This vision involved Israel's high priest, Joshua.
 - As Joshua was standing before the angel of the Lord, Satan was right there to accuse (resist) him.

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- Satan was there to remind the Lord of Joshua's imperfections - his faults.
- What were the Lord's two responses?
 1. The Lord rebuked Satan on Joshua's behalf.
 2. The Lord reminded Satan that Joshua was a brand plucked from the fire.
- The Lord was saying to Satan that Joshua was not perfect - **just redeemed**.
- There are **three** things we should remember as we apply this scriptural text to our lives:
 1. Satan will always show up to remind you of what you used to be. That's his job.

Rev.12:10 "The devil is the accuser of the brethren that accuses them before God day and night"
 2. God will rebuke the enemy on your behalf.

"When my enemy and foe came upon me to eat up my flesh..."
 3. We are all nothing but brands rescued from the fire.
 - We were all born in sin and shaped in iniquity, and on our way to hell.
 - But God's love lifted us.
 - We are not perfect - **just redeemed**.