



Daily Devotional

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Pastor Eric Jay

Prayer: Almighty God, You love us with perfect patience, mercy and faithfulness. Your love is given freely and without cost to us because Your Son Jesus has paid the bridal dowry in full through His death and resurrection. By Your grace and power, may we live each day in the joy of knowing as it says in Song of Solomon 2:16, “My beloved is mine and I am his.” Amen.

Scripture: Romans 4:7-8

⁷ *“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;*

⁸ *blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”*

Devotional – “Wearing Righteousness”

All throughout the Scriptures, from the Old Testament to the New Testament, God refers to His chosen people and His church as His Bride. Through this imagery of a bride and groom and the beautiful union and fidelity that was intended to be forever in God’s institution of marriage, God paints a vivid picture of His unwavering commitment and love for us as a husband, despite our sinful hearts and adulterous ways.

Passages like Isaiah 54:5-6 speak of God as a husband forced to leave His bride Israel because of her persistent adultery in chasing after false idols:

*For your Maker is your husband,
the Lord of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.*

⁶ *For the Lord has called you
like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit,
like a wife of youth when she is cast off,
says your God.*

Despite our unfaithfulness to God as our Maker, God provided a way for us to be reconciled back to Him – through Jesus. Through His blood He has restored our honor by clothing us with His righteousness that we receive by faith in His death and resurrection. As it says in Ephesians 5:25-27, “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”

Mankind was made in the image of God. The institution of marriage is God's gift to man. Adam was made "very good" when God created Him, but alone Adam was not complete. Man and woman were made for each other, and it was within the institution of marriage that both Adam and Eve were to worship God and come to learn of His love for them. No wonder God likens our relationship with Him to one of marriage. God is our first love. Without Him we do not know what love is, and we cannot love our spouse or others as we want to or ought to unless we are first married to the Lord.

As the Bride of Christ, we should feel wonder and appreciation for having been rescued by our Bridegroom--Jesus Himself. We once lived in bondage to sin and death, and knew nothing of true love, but we have been rescued and redeemed to live in the freedom of His love and mercy that He gives to us without conditions.

As those who know Christ as Lord and Savior, He has dressed us in the beauty of His righteousness. Each day, whether we are working in the fields or sitting in the office, we should lovingly and proudly wear the righteousness of Christ that He has given us by living lives worthy of our Bridegroom. May we wear the joy that we have found in Christ every day, for the whole world to see.

Thanks for joining me today for another time of devotion my friends, and remember, that God has forgiven yesterday, is with you today and has already taken care of tomorrow. Amen.