

I. The PARTICULARS of God's presence.

(Psalm 16:11; Psalm 73:17; Psalm 63:2)

- A. He shows us the path of life.
- B. There is fullness of joy & pleasures forever.
- C. I can perceive my enemy's end.
- D. I can see Him, His power & His glory.

II. The PREPARATION for God's presence.

(James 4:8; Romans 13:14; Ezekiel 44:18)

- A. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
- B. Cleanse your hands & purify your hearts.
- C. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- D. Put on the new self.
- E. DO NOT put on anything that makes me sweat.

III. A PREVIEW of God's presence.

- A. God's presence gives me a clearer understanding of my enemies. (Psalm 23:5a; 73:17)
- B. In God's presence is His power and glory. (Psalm 63:2)
- C. People are drawn toward God's presence. (Hebrews 10:21, 22)
- D. We must come to Him with a sincere heart. (Hebrews 10:21, 22)
- E. If we move toward Him, He moves toward us. (James 4:8)

IV. Today's POINTS about God's Presence

God's presence is made possible through His Son, Jesus Christ.

(II Corinthians 5:21) "He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

There is no WORK involved. (No sweat!)

The WORK is done, the battle won by Jesus Christ.

Take off the polluted garment and put on "Christ".

¹⁴ "Yet I will appoint them to keep charge of the house, of all its service, and of all that shall be done in it. ¹⁵ "But the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from Me, shall come near to Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer Me the fat and the blood," declares the Lord God. ¹⁶ "They shall enter My sanctuary; they shall come near to My table to minister to Me and keep My charge. ¹⁷ "And it shall be that when they enter at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and wool shall not be on them while they are ministering in the gates of the inner court and in the house. ¹⁸ "Linen turbans shall be on their heads, and linen undergarments shall be on their loins; they shall not gird themselves with *anything which makes them sweat*."

Care Group Questions

“No Sweat!” Entering God’s Presence
Text: Ezekiel 44:14-18

GROW Group Quiz

Joseph Christopherson

October 21, 2007

- 1. The point of this message was to:**
 - A. Help people decide what to wear on Sundays.
 - B. Encourage people to search out different avenues into God’s presence.
 - C. Help people understand that there is only one way into God’s presence.
 - D. There was really no point to the message, Joseph just wanted to show-off his new wool coat.
- 2. Because New Testament Christians no longer have tabernacles and temples as they did in Old Testament times:**
 - A. We should stay at home and watch TV church.
 - B. We are obligated to offer sacrificed animals Sundays on our back yard grills.
 - C. We should not expect to have any joy entering the church building.
 - D. People can still experience joy when they come to church.
- 3. Putting on Christ actually means:**
 - A. Carrying all the burdens of the other church members.
 - B. Allowing the work Jesus Christ did on Calvary to carry us and not try to justify ourselves.
 - C. Wearing clothes that are only made of linen.
 - D. To walk through the streets of Jerusalem at once in our lives.
- 4. The reason for reading Ezekiel 44:14-18 was to:**
 - A. Make sure the principles that were being preached were founded in the Old Testament also.
 - B. Promote the idea that the laws and principles taught in the Old Testament are to be an example for New Testament worshippers.
 - C. Accentuate the idea that perspiration represented the impurity and pollution that keeps the contemporary Christian from enjoying God’s presence.
 - D. Remind people that there is a robe of righteousness waiting to usher them into the Father’s presence.
 - E. All of the above.

Answers

“No Sweat!” Entering God’s Presence

- 1. The point of this message was to:**
 - C. Help people understand that there is only one way into God’s presence

Scriptural References: Jesus said, “I am the way...” (John 14:6) “For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)

- 2. Because New Testament Christians no longer have tabernacles and temples as they did in Old Testament times:**
 - D. People can still experience joy when they come to church.

Scriptural References: “I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.” (Psalm 122:1) “...In Your presence is fullness of joy...” (Psalm 16:11) “How lovely are Your dwelling places, O LORD of hosts! ² My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.” (Psalm 84:1, 2)

- 3. Putting on Christ actually means:**
 - B. Allowing the work Jesus Christ did on Calvary to carry us and not try to justify ourselves.

Scriptural References: “For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:4) “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

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 - C. Accentuate the idea that perspiration represented the impurity and pollution that keeps the contemporary Christian from enjoying God’s presence.
 - D. Remind people that there is a robe of righteousness waiting to usher them into the Father’s presence.
 - E. All of the above.

Scriptural References: (a) Hebrews 10:1; (b) I Corinthians 10:6; (c) Jude 22, 23; (d) Luke 15:22; Revelation 19:14