

FILTHY

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RAGS



The Text – Abuse

- “Sin is the defilement which a fallen nature imparts to all we do...So, even what we might consider to be in our favour, righteous acts, partake of the defilement of fallenness.” (Motyer, J. Alec, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries)
- “Even our few good works in which there is real excellence, as fruits of the Spirit, are so defective and defiled as done by us, that they need to be washed in the fountain open for sin and uncleanness.” (Matthew Henry)
- “In the best deeds of the best men there is some taint of evil. As Hooker says, ‘Our very repentances require to be repented of.’” (Pulpit Commentary)

The Text – Context

- How were they before? – **Isaiah 1:21**
- Babylonian captivity as a consequence of unrighteousness:
 - Plea for God's presence – **Isaiah 64:1-3**
 - He acts for those who wait for Him – (**v. 4**)
 - He meets those who do righteousness – (**v. 5a**)
 - The Problem – (**vv. 5b-7**) – sinned, continued in sin, none call on His name.



The Text – Context

- **Ezekiel 18:20; 1 John 3:7-8** – those who do righteously are righteous, and those who sin are sinful.
- Why are their “righteousnesses...like filthy rags?” EX:
 - Empty ritualism – **Isaiah 1:10-11**
 - Unrequested fast (self-prescribed) – **Isaiah 58:1-5**
 - It wasn't true righteousness/obedience/faith. If so, it would have been pleasing.

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- **Prior Righteousness** – Luke 9:62; Philippians 3:13-14; Ezekiel 18:24; Hebrews 4:9-10
- **Hypocritical Righteousness** – Matthew 23:2-3; 7:1-5; Galatians 2:11-14
- **Self-Righteousness** – Colossians 2:23; Luke 18:9-12; Romans 9:31-32; Philippians 3:9; Luke 15:29-32
- **Nominal Righteousness** – Ezekiel 36:16-21; Matthew 3:7-10; Romans 9:1-5; Acts 11:26; Revelation 3:1

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