



## What God Sees

Devotion

The Christian song, "I Am Covered Over" says:

I am covered over with the robe of righteousness that Jesus gives to me;  
I am covered over with the precious blood of Jesus, and He lives in me.  
Oh, what a joy it is to know my heav'nly Father loves me so, He gives to me my Jesus,  
When He looks at me, He sees not what I used to be, but He sees ... Jesus.

Words and Music by David Peacock.

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The Jubilate Group. Jesus Praise #187.

Can you picture what these words are saying? He is perfect; we are imperfect. St. Paul equates all his highly regarded Jewish credentials with rubbish (Philippians 3:8). Isaiah says *our righteous acts are like filthy rags* (64:6) and promises *The Lord will wash away the filth* (4:4). No matter how many baths we take, we can do nothing to become clean. Only Jesus can do that. His blood washes us clean. We deserve the punishment for our sins, but instead, Jesus stepped in as our "whipping boy." He took our place on the cross and suffered for our sins. When we are baptized, the Lord clothes us with His white robe of righteousness which totally covers our sin. Because of Jesus' saving actions on our behalf, the Father no longer sees our sinfulness. Instead, in us, He only sees the purity of Jesus. *God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God* (2 Corinthians 5:21).

During Lent, we contemplate Jesus' Passion. We thank Him for His indescribable gift of salvation. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we focus on the eternal importance Jesus' sin payment has on our lives. When we reflect on our Savior's sacrifices on our behalf, His resurrection on Easter brings us even greater joy.

**Prayer:** Loving Lord Jesus, we can never thank You enough for Your boundless love to us. You freely gave Yourself in our stead and clothed us with Your righteousness. Cleanse us, precious Savior, that we may be suited for service, and to draw others to faith in You. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Scripture references are from the NIV.

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*Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 2017*