

(3:1-2) – Here we see a beautiful picture of how the Lord God brings sinners to Christ for salvation, forgiveness, righteousness, eternal life and glory. We see how our God, even when we were alienated from Him in our minds by wicked works, had His sovereign providential hand of mercy and grace. Here, we obtain it in the way of our acknowledging it in the glorious Person and finished work of Christ. Naomi gave Ruth wise instructions. She first let Ruth know her intentions – **“My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?”** The goal of the true church of Jesus Christ, its ministers and witnesses, is to seek spiritual and eternal rest and security for the people of God. We know that this goal cannot be attained except as God brings lost sinners to Christ for all salvation and as Christ calls His sheep unto Himself (**Matt. 11:28-30**). Just as Naomi had much confidence in Boaz to be willing and able to do what her kinsman could, we as witnesses of Christ have all confidence in Him to do what the true Kinsman-Redeemer can and will do (**John 6:37**). We must point sinners to the place where the reapers **“winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor;”** i.e. where the true Gospel of God’s free and sovereign grace in Christ Jesus is preached without mixture or compromise.

(3:3-4) – Naomi told Ruth exactly what she must do. Do not mistake this as teaching by picture some form of salvation by works as if sinners must make themselves qualified and presentable to Christ to be saved. The Bible teaches throughout that in salvation God by His grace and power makes us qualified and presentable to be saved in and by the Lord Jesus Christ. Naomi said, **“Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee.”** We know that no sinner can wash him or herself clean from sin. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can wash us clean from our sins. But in the Gospel, the Lord shows us our need to be washed clean from our sins and how that cleansing is accomplished by Christ as our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer (**1 John 1:9**). No sinner can anoint him or herself with the power of the Spirit. Christ sends the Holy Spirit Who by His own sovereign power anoints us with spiritual cleansing and life in the new birth which comes about, not by our works, but by His power (**John 1:12-13**).

Naomi said, **“and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor.”** She was instructing Ruth to make herself presentable to Boaz. The spiritual raiment that we must have to be presentable to Christ is the robe of HIS righteousness imputed which He accomplished for us and gives to us. Our efforts to make ourselves righteous to be justified before God are futile (**Rom. 3:10-20**). **“But make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking”** – If Ruth would be wed to Boaz, that was altogether up to Boaz. But she must let him know that she is interested. She must use every means at her disposal to obtain his favor. She must seek him. Yet, she must seek him as one unworthy of his notice, and totally dependent

upon him – **“And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.”** The Lord brings us unto Himself as we are totally without merit and totally dependent upon Him for all salvation. He tells us to just wait on Him, and He will tell us what we must do, not to earn salvation, but to obtain it by His mercy and grace.

(3:5-7) – Ruth said, **“All that thou sayest unto me I will do.”** She was more than willing to follow Naomi’s instructions. The Lord makes His people willing to follow His instructions in the Gospel in the day of His power **(Rom. 1:16-17)**. Ruth **“went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her.”** She humbled herself because she knew it was Boaz’s decision whether or not to accept or reject her. So, she waited until Boaz had **“eaten and drunk,”** and she **“uncovered his feet, and laid her down.”**

(3:8-9) – Boaz was startled to find her at his feet and asked, **“Who art thou?** She identified herself, **“I am Ruth, thine handmaid,”** i.e. a servant or a slave. Then she made a request based on a lawful claim – **“spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.”** Spreading the skirt was a sign of a claim or a covenant. We have a beautiful picture of this concerning salvation in **Ezekiel 16:6-14** in the prophet’s vision of the recovery and healing of a cast-out infant. This is the way of salvation by grace.

(3:10-11) – Boaz’s response was one of willingness to do what a kinsman-redeemer would do – **“Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.”**

There was no reluctance at all on Boaz’s part to perform the part of a kinsman. He commends her for the wisdom of her actions. The Lord God brings His people to Christ according to His wisdom revealed in the Gospel as revealed by the Holy Spirit **(John 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; 2 Cor. 4:3-6)**. Boaz promised to do all that she wanted – **“And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest:”** – All the promises of salvation and eternal life are ours in Christ our willing Kinsman-Redeemer **(2 Cor. 1:20)**. He is more than willing and able to save us from our sins and deliver us unto glory **(Isa. 50:5-6; John 10:14-18; 19:10-11; Heb. 12:2)**. He declared her to be virtuous – **“for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.”** She was not so by nature; she was a Moabite, but grace made her so **(1 Cor. 6:9-11)**. This is the way of salvation by God’s grace for sinners. The Lord makes the vile and sinful virtuous and righteous as we stand in Christ our Kinsman-Redeemer.