

“Getting Dressed for Heaven” | Study Notes

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Rom 13:11-14

And that, knowing the time, that now **it is high time to awake out of sleep**: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us **put on the armor of light**. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. **But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lust thereof.**

1. In this text, we find **a definite command** for him who desires a happy, successful Christian life.
2. There is a definite, **intentional call-to-action** for the soul who recognizes the times in which he lives.
3. Upon the realization of these things, we are **commanded to arise**, and put on **the armor of light**.
4. A number of sins are then listed before Paul returns to reinforce His main point.
5. Let me read it to you this way: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and **“you will not** make a provision for the flesh and **you will not fulfil the lust of the flesh”**.
6. What a promise! If we put on “the armor of light” which Paul describes as “the Lord Jesus Christ”, **God’s promise** is that we will not fulfil the lust of the flesh!

What does it mean to “fulfil the lust of the flesh”? How GOOD is this news??

Ephesian 2:3.

We all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath” (consequence).

1. To fulfil the lust of the flesh **means to carry out the desires** of the flesh — to give self what it wants.
2. Since the will is the governing power of man, fulfilling the desires of the flesh **means to surrender your will, or your choice to self**, to gratify self.
3. Each of us have had much practice doing this, for this is **our natural condition**, and formed **habit from birth**.
4. Even **after conversion**, when a new spirit comes into the new heart, we must still **watch and pray**, or we will find ourselves choosing to gratify self out of habit, rather than deny self from divine principle.
5. Here is the good news — Paul places emphasis on what we will NOT do if we can manage to **wake up and get dressed for Heaven**. The preparation is the attire, the armor of light, or putting on Christ.

“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lust thereof”

Brethren, since it's high time, don't you think its about time that we gain a clear understanding of this amazing promise?

OUR STUDY:

- 1) Just what it means to put on Christ.
- 2) Just how to do it!

I cannot overemphasize the importance of this.

When something is very, very important to me, I will often repeat it many times. Gabriel on his bike. Noah driving the car. **When something is important, we emphasize it.**

And this is one of the **most emphasized subjects in the Bible.** God has plead repeatedly for us to put on Christ ever since man's fall at beginning of this world.

Genesis 3:8.

Question - **Why did Adam and his wife hide** from the presence of the Lord God? (They discovered their nakedness)

There are some unfortunate consequences for us **because of their decision.**

1. We are **born naked** (literally yes, but also spiritually); we are born without a spiritual garment. (Psa 58:3)
2. As we become self-aware of this nakedness, **feelings of fear, guilt and shame appear.**
3. These underlying feelings and emotions cause us to **play hide-and-seek** with our Creator. He seeks while we hide or avoid coming face to face with Him.
4. This **separation** from our Creator **creates pain in God's heart.**
5. This **separation** from the Source of life, **creates pain in us,** leaving us **void of moral power,** and subsequently makes provision for, or **enables, the flesh to have its way** in us.
6. There is only **ONE solution** to this dilemma, only one way to obtain freedom from fear, guilt, shame and the bondage sin—**we must cover our nakedness with the Lord Jesus.**

My prayer is that the Lord will **teach us how** to wake up and get dressed for Heaven!

What does it mean to “put on the Lord Lord Jesus”?

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath **clothed me with the garments of salvation**, he hath **covered me with the robe of righteousness**, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

1. The passage is describing **the preparation** a couple makes for **before marriage**.
2. In this passage, Isaiah used **two terms** to describe the **same article** of clothing:
 - The **“garment of salvation”**.
 - The **“robe of righteousness”**.

The Garment of Salvation

1. It appears that **having the garment/robe is** synonymous with **experiencing salvation**.
2. Now we know that **regular attire**, no matter how nice it is, **cannot save us**. There is only one name under heaven by which we must be saved —Jesus Christ.
3. If the garment provides salvation, and Jesus is the Savior, we can conclude then, that **Paul echo’s Isaiah’s thought**. The **garment of salvation**, which covers our nakedness, is **Christ himself**.
4. And **those who Put on Christ** will experience salvation—salvation from **sin’s guilt**, **sin’s power** and **sin’s presence**. . (Matthew 1:21)
5. Those who don’t, will be lost. (Matthew 22:11, 12).

The Robe of Righteousness

1. In this passage, since the garment is **also called the Robe of righteousness**, we conclude then, that, putting on the Lord Jesus is also described as putting on righteousness.
2. Job said, “I put on righteousness, and it clothed me (Job 29:14).
3. The **garment of salvation is the righteousness of Christ**.

Let’s go one layer deeper in analyzing the robe of righteousness:

What is Righteousness?

Thoughts From the Mount of Blessings, pg 18

“Righteousness is love, and love is the light and the life of God.”

1. What both Paul, Isaiah and many others wrote about then, was the definite, often **repeated appeal** from God to **put on His love**.

How do we to obtain this special article of clothing, the armor of light, the garment of salvation, the robe of God’s righteousness—the love of God?

1. A **correct understanding** of how to obtain the garment, must follow a correct understanding of the **function of the law**, and its **relationship to the gospel**.
2. Jesus' appeal to Laodicea is the only evidence we need to show that we need much help getting this. (Rev 3:18)
3. **Laodicea is proud of her works**, but lacks saving faith.
4. **Apostate Protestantism is proud of her faith**, but lack correspondence works.
5. The **3rd angel**'s message is to produce a people who has **faith and works**!

So what is the function the law, as it relates to the gospel?

Galatians 3:24, 25.

Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster** to **bring us unto Christ**, that we might be justified by faith. By **after faith is come**, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

1. "Especially the **moral law**" (Selected Messages, Vol. 1, p. 234)
2. The **purpose** of the law is **to lead us to Christ and to faith**. (Vs 23)
3. We must **never find fault** with something that plays such a **vital role in our salvation**.
4. We also must be careful to not expect the law to do something for us that it was never intended to do—cover our nakedness.

What then, is the relation between faith and the law?

Rom 5:1 - Being **justified by faith** we have peace with God.

Rom 3:31 - Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid, **we establish the law**.

Rom 8:3 - What the **law could not** do, because of **MY weakness**, I must go to Christ to have done.

- **The law** of God brings me to Christ, but it **cannot forgive** me for my sins.
- It condemns me, but **cannot save** me.
- It **cannot cover my nakedness** or take away my feelings of guilts, shame and fear.
- It **cannot change my heart**.
- It **leads me** to the One who can do all this for me.

Why is the function of the law such an important, critical step in putting on Christ?

Testimonies to Ministers, p. 456

"When men see their own nothingness, **they are prepared** to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ."

1. We will never put on someone else's attire if we feel that our own is sufficient.

Illustration:

Luke 5:1-8 - "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing"

1. Why was Peter hesitant to cast his net?
2. **He thought** his wisdom, his "attire" **sufficient**.
3. 1 Cor 1:30 - **Christ is** not only our righteousness, but **our wisdom**.

Steps to Christ, p. 64-65

The less we see to esteem in ourselves, the more we shall see to esteem in the infinite purity and loveliness of our Saviour.

1. **We must Get down** off of the high horse.
2. **Don't be afraid** to see yourself as you really are.
3. It's not a hopeless case, Christ came on a rescue mission

What happens after I see my nothingness?

Gen 3 – **Christ appears** in His beauty to offer help.

1. When the **law brings me to Jesus** and I behold His beauty, and I see my own nothingness, the **good news suddenly appears**, and I realize that Christ stands **at the door**.
2. He is there to offer me His beautiful garments!
3. He offers righteousness/love as **a free gift**.
4. But I cannot take it, **unless I take Him**.

Mount of Blessings, p. 18

The **righteousness** of God is **embodied in Christ**. We received righteousness **by receiving Him**."

So **why** did God give us His Son? John 3:16

1. It was the **ONLY way** to give the sinner righteousness.
2. John 1:12 - "But as many as **received him**, to them gave he power.."
3. 1 John 5:12 - "He that **hath** the Son **hath life**" or hath **righteousness** "

Thoughts From the Mount of Blessings, pg 18

"Righteousness is love, and **love is** the light and the **life** of God."

Much of our confusion, frustration, doubt and unbelief can be cleared away by exercising mustard seed faith on this point:

1. When we **receive Him**, we **receive** righteousness.

2. When we **have Him**, we **have righteousness**.
3. “And He shall be called, the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

And how is He, or righteousness obtained?

Romans 3:20

But now the **righteousness of God** without the law **is manifested**, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even **the righteousness of God which is by faith** of Jesus Christ **unto all** and **upon all them that believe**: for there is no difference.

1. The law and the prophets tell of a way for the soul to obtain the garment **without the works of the law**.
2. How does the law and prophets reveal this?—**through the gospel**. In Romans 1:16, 17, Paul wrote that the gospel revealed the righteousness of God. So since the law and the prophets teach the gospel, and the gospel reveals the “righteousness of God”, it follows then that the righteousness of God is manifested through the law and the prophets.
3. “Unto All” - The righteousness of God has been **offered to all**.
4. “Upon All” - Although offered to all, it is **only placed “upon” those who believe**.

The Terms of Acceptance

1. The **biggest problem** that God has is **our refusal to accept the garment** on His terms.
2. **Romans 4:3** - Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
3. **Through faith**, which is belief and trust, **Abraham received Christ**, and by doing so, he received righteousness. (Gen 15:1)
4. Every child of God **must receive Him the same way**, by faith.
5. Romans 9:30 – Seems the more we know, the harder it is...(Romans 9:31, 32; 10:1-4)
6. Abraham believed! The soul **must believe** that the garment is a gift, and must **trust** that it alone sufficient.
7. If the soul’s nakedness does not disappears, his fear, shame, guilt and bondage to sin—he has either not accepted the garment, or has taken it off at some point along his/her journey.

Ignorance of how to obtain the righteousness of God, **or a rejection of His terms**, will leave the soul naked and uncovered. Thus, he will earnestly strive to cover himself just as **our first parents**. Fig leaves appear in many forms. They will often appear as thoughts/words/actions which hide the pain of our nakedness - shame, fear, guilt and bondage to sin.

How do I receive it by faith?

A series of statements will help us better understand the receiving process.

Review and Herald, July 2, 1889

It will do you no good merely to talk of the righteousness of Christ; you **must appropriate it** by living faith.

Selected Messages, Vol 1, p. 389

Many have a nominal faith in Christ, but they know nothing of that vital dependence upon Him which **appropriates the merits** of a crucified and risen Savior.

Review and Herald, Nov. 22, 1892

If you would stand through the time of trouble, you must know Christ, and **appropriate the gift** of his righteousness, which he imputes to the repentant sinner.

Selected Messages, Vol 1. P. 363-354

Genuine faith **appropriates** the righteousness of Christ, and the sinner is made an overcome with Christ; for he is made a partaker of the divine nature, and thus divinity and humanity are combined.

Appropriate: “to take exclusive possession of” (Illustration – Bible and \$\$)

Selected Messages, Vol 1. P 374

In order to meet the requirements of the law, our faith must **grasp** the righteousness of Christ, **accepting it as our righteousness.**

Selected Messages, Vol. 1, p. 366, 367

Faith is the condition upon which God has seen fit to promise pardon to sinners; not that there is any virtue in faith whereby salvation is merited, but because faith can **lay hold** of the merits of Christ, the remedy provided for sin.

Desire of Ages p 175

Through faith we receive the grace of God; but faith is not our Saviour. It earns nothing. It is **the hand by which we lay hold** upon Christ, and **appropriate His merits**, the remedy for sin.

1. This was EGW’s understanding of how to put on the garments, to receive it by faith.
2. This is not the kind of faith we hear about today.
3. **Jones & Waggoner** taught that we must **grasp it now, take possession** of it now, and **have it now, experience it now, and rejoice in it now.**

And should any of you become concerned about **if you have the saving faith** to appropriate the garment NOW, I remind you of the following **special give.**

Romans 12:3 – He hath given to every man **the measure of faith!**

1. Exercise that gift!

2. And should you need more of the gift? (Faith comes by what means?)

2 Cor 3:18.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord”.

1. When we realize that we have been bitten with the serpent of selfishness, the serpent of nakedness, of shame, fear, guilt, bondage; we need not despair.
2. **Beholding Christ produces the faith that appropriates the garment.** Faith grows exceeding as you grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Selected Messages, Vol 1, p. 395

By beholding Jesus we receive a living, expanding principle in the heart, and the Holy Spirit carries on the work, and **the believer advances** from grace to grace, from strength, from character to character. He **conforms to the image of Christ**, until in spiritual growth he attains unto the measure of the full stature in Christ Jesus.

1. We advance as we look. We grow as we look.
2. It is by beholding the love of God and claiming His righteousness as ours NOW by faith, that we are transformed into the same image.

In Ephesians 3:17, we are admonished to let Christ “dwell in our hearts by faith”.

How is this achieved?

Testimonies to Ministers, p. 387

Christ **dwelling in our hearts** by faith **means the contemplation of Christ, beholding Christ**, ever cherishing the dear Savior as our very best and honored friend, so that we would not in any action grieve and offend Him.

CONCLUSION

There is a **definite urgency** to take heed to do all that God has presented to us today.

In Matthew 22, in response to the prideful Pharisees challenging His authority to teach and preach in the temple, Jesus speaks a parable with **a most urgent call-to-action**.

1. It is aN urgent clarion call. It is **the final warning to a dying world presented in a parable**. It is none other than the judgment-hour message.

2. A King prepares **a wedding** for His Son. Apparently, many of the invited guest didn't come. And those that did come but didn't wear a wedding garment, which turns out to be the only requirement to attend the wedding.
3. What does the wedding represent?
4. When does the wedding take place?
5. And what is the garment?
6. **This is the attire for the judgment.**

If the attire has so many benefits, why have so many over the years had problems putting it on?

We find the answer in Revelation 3.18.

"I counsel thee to buy of me...white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do no appear..."

If the garment is free, why is Jesus asking me to buy it?

Isaiah 55:1,2.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

1. How do with buy the raiment, that prepares us for the judgment without money?
2. Answer. Jesus has incorporated a barter system into the plan of salvation. Because He love never violates your free will, He establishes a system which allows the soul to choose to receive the benefits.
3. In this divine system, He has something that you want.
4. And you have something He wants.
5. The thirsty soul wants the garment of salvation, the armor of light, the robe of His righteousness, the wedding garment—and since all of this is embodied in Christ, He must give Himself to you.
6. Now, what could you possibly have in your possession, that, One who has everything could want?

1 Peter 1:18, 19.

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ...

Redeemed means to cause to be released by payment of a ransom.

1. This verse implies that Jesus paid for something with His own precious blood.

What did He purchase?

Hebrews 10:4.

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

1. Only the precious blood of the Son of God could pay for a life with sin in it.
2. For ye were bought with a price, the blood of Christ, therefore ye are not your own.
3. Jesus bought our sins on Calvary.

So what does He want? He wants our sins.

When you give Him your life, with SIN in it, He gives you His life, with righteousness in it.

BC, Volume 7, p. 965.

Jesus is going from door to door (from heart to heart), standing in front of every soul temple, proclaiming, "I stand at the door, and knock". As a heavenly merchant man, He opens His treasures and cries, "Buy of me..."

On behalf of Christ, I ask that everyone one of you "sell" what you have... and buy of Christ today.