

Coach House Church BEACONS

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CLOTHING

I'm not sure about you, but I've never been particularly concerned about the clothes I wear. I know what I like, and I know what I don't. Different occasions demand different types of attire. Weddings and funerals, or work come to mind.

When I am home though and relaxing, I slip into my comfy jeans (or shorts if the sun is out) and T shirt - usually a bands tour t-shirt or something of that ilk. It's my comfort place, where I rest and feel comfortable. Clothing can sometimes be a bit of a mood thing ... I once had a pair of jeans that I had worn for so many years they were thread bear and probably indecent to wear in public! - but they were my go-to jeans of choice. You may be wondering where on earth this is going, so let me cut to the chase. Some clothing is set apart and special. Whether it's a comfy tired pair of jeans or the tailored suit that makes us straighten our back and feel important. What we clothe ourselves in is important. Take this passage from Johns gospel for instance.

John 19:23 (NLT)

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them.

They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So, they said, "Rather than tearing it apart, let's throw dice for it." This fulfilled the Scripture that says, "They divided my garments among themselves and threw dice for my clothing. So that is what they did.

Now , you probably didn't expect that little detour did you, so let me explain.

It was Jewish tradition for a mother to make a robe for their sons as they departed from the house - a sort of going away gift if you will. The robe would be made from a single piece of cloth, without seam, woven from top to bottom. Strange that the clothing Jesus was wearing at his crucifixion are described like this, so maybe this was a robe that His mother , Mary had made for him? We don't know, but it certainly could have been.

They certainly belonged to Jesus, as it says that the scripture was fulfilled when the soldiers cast lots for his clothing - in other words there was a prophecy saying that this would happen - and we can read it in Psalm 22 v 18

Psalm 22:18 (NLT)

They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing.

So, these clothes were special - they mattered because they fulfilled scripture. I'm reminded that as Christians we are to 'put on Christ'. A strange term, but one that is accurate in so many ways.

Romans 13:11 (NLT)

...Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A dear friend of mine passed away recently. I remember a story she told me about a carnival parade in the street. Some cheerleaders were dressed in black outfits as part of the procession.

A customer in a shop however when they looked through the shop window saw them wearing white! This is because the window had a red filter screen on it to protect the goods from the sunlight. As it filtered the light it also made colours different on the outside ... Black became white!

This is reminder that as human beings we are tainted by our wrongdoing - anything that is against God. It is called sin. When God looks at us, he sees our 'blackness' and this means that we are worthy of judgement. The bible tells us that the wages of sin is death. However, when we have Jesus in our lives, this changes everything!

As God looks at our blackness, it is filtered by the red blood of Jesus and we appear white as snow! We haven't become Jesus - we have clothed ourselves with Him - and it changes how God sees us. We might not have everything together or even feel that we have done things right, we probably haven't, but God sees us clothed in Jesus goodness (or righteousness).

Pretty amazing really, but I wonder how comfortable it is to wear this?

Certainly, there are easier days than some, but we have to learn to live in the truth - safe in the covering that we have. We shouldn't be complacent, but we shouldn't be downcast in our failings either. As we get used to the new clothing we wear, the freedom it brings us, the hope it brings us - then the more we realise it has nothing to do with us! We realise that the character traits we have are being changed as grow accustomed to our covering.

God knew what He was doing when he sent Jesus to die for us. Easter is over, but the clothing still needs to be taken up and lived in every day. When we don't feel like it, the Holy Spirit will help us.

When the devil tells you that you are not worthy to have your clothing - tell him he is right. Then put on your covering anyway! They are your heavenly clothing and they were given to you at great cost.

God knew what He was doing when he sent Jesus to die for us.

Revelation 7:10 (NLT)

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar,

“Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!”

Let's pray together...

Thank you, Jesus that you were prepared to give your life for mine. To swap my sin and wrongdoing, for your goodness and righteousness.

Thank you, Father God, that you did not wait for me to get right under my own steam - we both know that this is impossible for me to achieve on my own.

Thank you, Lord, that the great plan You brought into being, gives us the right to come into your presence - just as we are - but clothed in the blood of Jesus.

Help me to live a life worthy of the covering I have been given.

For your glory

Amen



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