

Mt. Lebanon Church

March 2020

Sermon

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of Gods word.

The Tunic – Christ Holiness – The Church

How many of us stop to think about the things that we wear. Do we try to make a statement or accomplish something by what we chose to wear. Do we dress with dignity and modesty or do we just dress. The respect and decency that was passed down through the generations has long been forgotten. It seems it is more important to make a personal statement than to take into consideration the value of what we have been taught.

On the other hand, do we as Christians spend more time making choices about what we wear and focusing on our spiritual wardrobe, than we spend focusing on our spiritual maturity and the spiritual well being of those around us.

So what is this spiritual clothing all about, should we make sure, or does it matter if our clothing choices bring glory to God.

John 19 :23, To each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam....

We are going to talk about the Tunic which represents Christ Holiness, or righteousness, which is the church.

From the beginning, clothing became an everlasting reminder of the atonement made by God on behalf of man because of sin. It became a covenant between God and man looking forward to the cross and salvation.

Genesis 3: 8 – 11, 21 So he said, I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself.... The Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them...

Adam and Eve tried to clothe themselves with fig leaves, which is a type of worldliness. You can not cover sinfulness with worldliness, although many of us at times, just like Adam and Eve, try daily to do so. God showed Adam and Eve that there had to be a shedding of blood. As Christians today we are clothed through Christ and the Cross.

John 19: 24 They said therefore among themselves, let us not tear it....

Gods covering for us is whole and complete. The vastness of our covering, we will not fully understand until we receive that Eternal perfection in Christ. Sadly, we only realize a portion of Gods grace and mercy as we live our lives here on earth. We should continually strive for perfection in Christ Jesus.

We can see the importance of what God was trying to tell us. He allowed David to prophecy about it in

Psalms 22:18 they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots....

On the cross, Christ endured what God allowed, his clothing being stripped by wicked men. Christ seamless robe which represented his holiness, his righteousness, so that we might take it up and put it on, that he might clothe us in righteousness, the church, the bride of Christ.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich....

Exposed to the insults of man so that we may appear in glory unashamed before the judgement seat of Christ. Everything that Christ done, he done for us. He made it so we might, receive life that never ends, joy that no one can take, promises that cannot be broken, and the peace of God that passes all understanding.

Christ let go of everything on the cross. All his worldly possessions. He became completely poor that we might become wholly rich in him.

Matthew 27: 45,46 and about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying.... My God my God, why have you forsaken me....

Christ, endured the cross, was made a curse for us, became our sin substitute, taking on the debt of sin in our place. All of these events Christ knew was going to happen, and with loving willfulness he accepted Gods plan for us. The one thing, he had to endure, that no matter how hard we might try, but can never prepare for, was the Father having to turn his back on him because of sin. Christ died for us, so that we would never have to experience this ourselves.

We would have been that sinner that God turned away from had it not been for Christ laying aside his tunic, taking on the sin debt of the world so that we might have salvation.

1 Corinthians 1: 21 – 31 it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe....

Salvation provided by God through Christ death is sufficient and lacks nothing.

Salvation is not just for our personal benefit. God has a great eternal plan in store for all who except him.

John 19: 23,24 they took his garments and made four parts....also the tunic....

Just as Christ garments were divided by sinful wicked men, so is the word of God divided the same way in our time today, by sinful wicked men that pose as Godly religious figures.

As we see these sinful men playing games – casting lots – while Christ gave his life for even them and all mankind. We see this as well in the church today.

But just like the tunic that God allowed to stay in one piece, so the church stands undivided. It remains in tack, just as the tunic did.

How many people today are still playing games, dividing the scripture to fit their own needs, but God will still not allow the church to be divided. Peter tells us this is due to a living hope through the resurrection.

1 Peter 1: 3 – 16 blessed be the God.... According to his abundant mercy.... Begotten us to a living hope....

As we read down through and study this, we see that we as believers are given Hope, Hope of eternal life with Christ.

The basis of this living hope is the cross.

V.7 – The strength of the living hope is that we are kept by the power of God. (Tested by fire)

Salvation of our souls is made possible by, Christ, the Cross, and the resurrection.

2 Corinthians 5: 1 – 8 For we know, if our earthly house.... Is destroyed.... We have a building from God....

Paul in his 2nd letter to Corinth talks to us about the assurance of the resurrection.

As Christians we know: If we are found naked, it means we are found in sinfulness. If further clothed than in the Righteous of God. Our desire should be for a complete and perfect relationship with God. Since this cannot happen in this world, than we desire to be with God. Although the world brings great disappointment, God allows his people to experience great joy, and he will not disappoint them.

1 Peter 1: 10 – 21as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts....be ye holy, for Aim holy....

Lets sum this up: God has chosen us, God made it possible for us to be born again to a living hope, God is keeping an inheritance for us – imperishable, undefiled, and unfailing, God protects us through faith, God refines our faith for his praise, his honor, his glory, God supplies us with the hope of eternal life through salvation.

Confident walking by faith is very difficult in living this Christian life. Being confident, walking in righteousness means we must make faith a part of our daily life. As we do this we learn more and more that heaven is more than what our minds can comprehend. It is always having unhindered, unrestricted access to the presence of the Lord.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all that God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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