

Sunday Service - PVIC – 10/30/2016

Sermon Series: Rags to Robes – V (Outline)

The Symbols of the Garment

Dr. V. A. Thomas, Pastor

“All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Gal.3: 27.

Introduction

This imagery of garment is used to portray several wonderful privileges that a child of God would inherit from God when he or she accept Christ as the Savior. They are found throughout the Scriptures: 1) the garment of righteousness; 2) the garment Priesthood; 3) the garment of Anointing; and, 4) the garment of Praise!

The beautiful thing is, when you clothe yourselves with Christ, you're clothed with all these garments as well!

1. Garment of Righteousness: This is the most fundamental gift or privilege we receive when we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

Rom. 3:22-23 - “This righteousness comes from God through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

Revelation 7:9 - “A great multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and language standing before the throne and in front of the lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.”

In verse 14, one of the elders explains to John who are these multitude wearing white robes: “...they've washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb.” It is the blood of the lamb that cleanses and justifies us, and enable us to stand before the throne of the Almighty God one day!

2. Garment of Priesthood: In Biblical history we find God's requirement for the priests to have a garment made under the specific instructions given by God and have the priests wear them to minister before God in his temple. Ex. 28:2 - “Make sacred garments for your brother Aaron, to give him dignity and honor.”

The office of the priest is an honorable and dignified position. Paul describes our High Priest who is greater than any human priest in Heb. 8:1-2 like this: “the one who sat at the right hand of the throne of the majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle, set up by Lord himself, not by man.” When this High Priest put himself as a garment around us, we become priests and priestesses as well.

Further established in 1 Pet. 2:9 - “But you're a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into the marvelous light.”

3. Garment of Anointing: In 2 Ki. 2:13-14, Elisha, the closest disciple of Prophet Elijah picked up his garment as he was taken up to heaven and began to do even greater miracles than his master.

Our Lord Jesus, one who has been described in the scriptures as greater than Elijah, promised his disciples in Jn. 14:12 - "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I've been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I'm going to the Father."

It is hard to believe, but Jesus himself assured us that if we truly believe as his disciples, and if we are clothed with him, we would have greater anointing than Elisha, Elijah and even Jesus Christ himself!

4. Garment of Praise: In 2 Sam. 6:14-15 we can find the true worship when King David took off his royal garment and put on his 'linen ephod' and began dancing before God, while the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the Covenant with shouts and the sound of trumpets. Ps. 34:1 - "I'll bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be on my lips."

Is. 61:3, "... and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair." Along with salvation, healing, deliverances and many victories, he gave us a garment of praise as well! We just need to put that on especially when things are tough!

Jesus' life was a life of praise – he was always praising His Father, how wonderful, loving and great the Father is. We find that throughout the Gospels, especially in John's Gospel. In Jn. 20:17, we can see him connecting us with his Father as our own Father as well: "now, go to my brothers and tell them, "I'm returning to my Father and to your Father, to my God and to your God!" When received Christ, we received his garment of praise – praising of our Father as well!

Conclusion

As Christians, when we were clothed with Christ, we were also clothed with His garment of Righteousness, His garment of Priesthood, His garment of Anointing, and His garment of Praise! Let's praise His Father, who is our Father as well – the good, good Father!
