



Signs say “No Shoes, No Shirt, No Service”, now we see signs that say “No Mask, No Service” Imagine a Dress Code for Heaven! What would that look like? Special haircuts? No skin showing? What would be the expectation of God’s saints made holy and entering into His presence?

Minutemen

Revolutionary War Multiforms



The Patriots who fought at Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775), Bunker Hill (June 17, 1775), and the Siege of Boston (April 19, 1775 – March 17, 1776) came from all walks of life, and unlike their British counterparts **had little to no uniform. Some wore their finest suits of clothing, while many others wore their work clothes. The clothing worn by the Patriots during the first year of the American Revolution was simply a cross section of the different fashions and styles of civilian clothing worn by New Englanders with all levels of society being represented.** Some uniformity did exist in the more affluent militia companies on the eve of the American Revolution, and following the Battle of Bunker Hill attempts were made to uniform the Patriot forces, **but the majority of the Patriots that served in 1775 wore their own civilian clothing.** Because the New England militia and minutemen of 1775 wore civilian clothing, in reality, they wore clothing no different from any other New England males at the time. The clothing detailed here is the typical dress of what men living in New England wore in the 1770s.

Colossians Outline

- ❖ Christ Declared
- ❖ Christ Defended
- ❖ Christ Displayed



Christ Declared - Gospel preached by Epaphras and shared among the region in Laodicea & Hierapolis

Christ Defended - from the heresies entering the church such as:

1. False Philosophy
2. Judaistic Ceremonialism
3. Angel worship
4. Asceticism

Christ Displayed - Beginning with Chapter 3, Paul begins to show us how to display Christ within the church to the world



“Be Clothed in Virtues”

Paul’s description of the ‘chosen’ - “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” (Colossians 3:12–17 NAS95)

The Wedding Garment

Matthew 22:1-14



This parable follows the parable of the wicked stewards of the vineyard where Jesus calls on the pharisees to be more humble. Key Verse Matthew 21:31



“And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, “Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.’” But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, “The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, “Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, “Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ “For many are called, but few are chosen.”” (Matthew 22:1–14 NKJV)

Special Invitations

- ❖ Prophets Went to the Nation of Israel
- ❖ John the Baptist Prepared the Way for Jesus
- ❖ Jesus Himself was proclaiming the Father's Love
- ❖ The Disciples were Commissioned to Preach the Gospel

Prophets Went to the Nation of Israel

John the Baptist Prepared the Way for Jesus

Jesus Himself was proclaiming the Father's Love

The Disciples were Commissioned to Preach the Gospel



Burned up their city. Doubtless an allusion to the fall of Jerusalem to the legions of Rome in a.d. 70 (see Matt. 24:15; Luke 21:20 p. 77).

Highways & Byways

"Invite them to the Wedding"



9. Go ye therefore. This, the third call of the parable, quite evidently represents the call of mercy to the Gentiles.

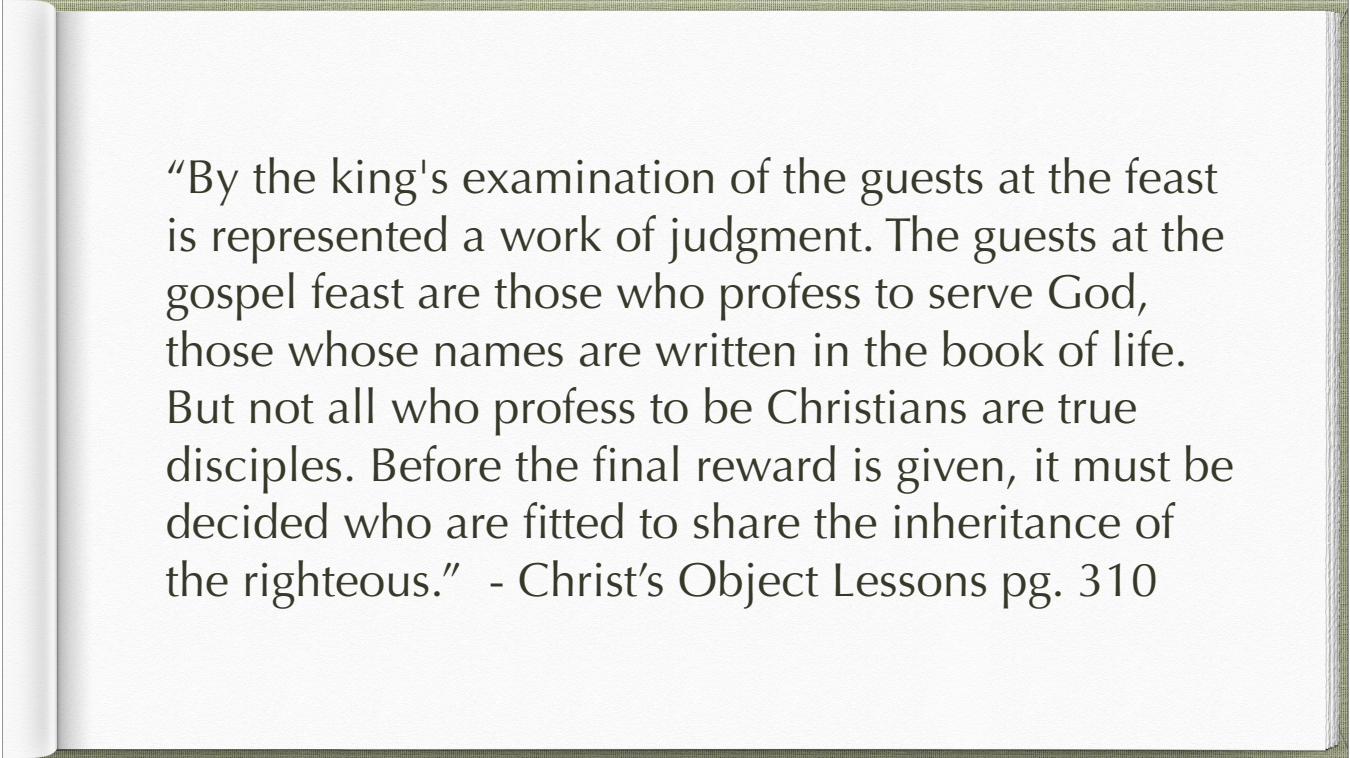
Highways. That is, main thoroughfares.

10. **Both bad and good.** Obviously, the festive hall represents the church on earth, for there would not be "bad and good" in heaven.



““But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

(Matthew 22:11–13 NKJV)

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective. The left page is blank and white. The right page is also white and contains a single paragraph of text in a black, serif font. The book's spine is visible on the left, and the edges of the pages are slightly shadowed.

“By the king's examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous.” - Christ’s Object Lessons pg. 310

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With this incredible parable, Jesus is unifying the theological elements of the judgment in story form for us so that we may understand the gospel principles of righteousness by faith.



“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; **and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.** And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?””
(Genesis 3:7–9 NKJV)



“This is what the transgressors of God's law have done ever since the day of Adam and Eve's disobedience. They have sewed together fig leaves to cover the nakedness caused by transgression. They have worn the garments of their own devising, by works of their own they have tried to cover their sins, and make themselves acceptable with God.” {COL 311.1}

But this they can never do. Nothing can man devise to supply the place of his lost robe of innocence. No fig-leaf garment, no worldly citizen dress, can be worn by those who sit down with Christ and angels at the marriage supper of the Lamb. {COL 311.2}

Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul. "I counsel thee," He says, "to buy of Me . . . white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear." Revelation 3:18. {COL 311.3}

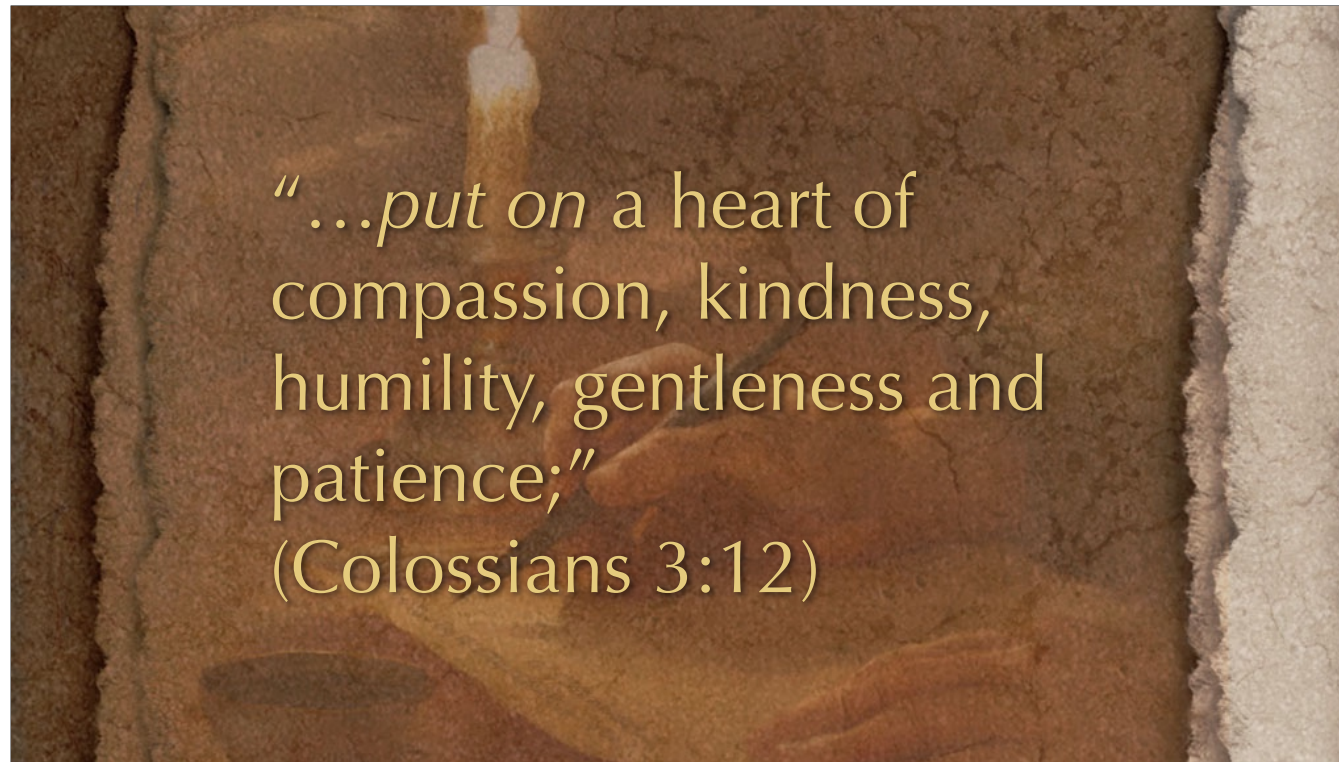


“The wedding garment represents “the righteousness of Christ” (COL 310). Hence, the rejection of the garment represents the rejection of those traits of character that qualify men to become sons and daughters of God.” —SDA Bible Commentary

The wedding garment represents “the righteousness of Christ” (COL 310). Hence, the rejection of the garment represents the rejection of those traits of character that qualify men to become sons and daughters of God. Like the guests in the parable, we have nothing suitable of our own to wear. We are acceptable in the presence of the great God only when clad in the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, by virtue of His merits. This is the “white raiment” Christians are counseled to buy (see Rev. 3:18; cf. ch. 19:8).

The man without a wedding garment represents professed Christians who feel no need of a transformation of character. This guest was apparently interested only in the privilege of eating of the king’s bounties. He did not truly appreciate the privilege accorded him. The honor of the king and the importance of the occasion meant nothing to him. He forgot that the feast was being held in honor of the king’s son, and thus of the king himself. How well clad he may have been was beside the point, for he had declined the only thing that qualified him to sit at the king’s table and enjoy the festivities and bountiful provisions that accompanied the wedding celebration.

Nichol, F. D. (1978). The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary : The Holy Bible with exegetical and expository comment. Commentary Reference Series (Mt 22:12). Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association.



"...put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;"
(Colossians 3:12)

compassion -
kindness -
humility -
gentleness -
patience -

Emotional Intelligence

- ❖ Self-Awareness
- ❖ Self-Regulation
- ❖ Self-Expression



Self-Awareness - “Self-awareness is being conscious of your own feelings and motives. Emotionally intelligent people often demonstrate a high level of self-awareness. You know how your emotions affect yourself and others, and you don’t allow your emotions to control you.” - Healthline.com

what emotions do I have? Why do I feel this way? What brought this on?

Self-Regulation - “People with the ability to self-regulate don’t make impulsive decisions. You pause and think about the consequences of an action before proceeding.” - Healthline.com

Self-Expression - “Self-Expression could be verbally and non-verbally through the expression of your thoughts, feelings, words, tone of your voice, body language and many others.”

Self-Expression could be verbally and non-verbally through the expression of your thoughts, feelings, words, tone of your voice, body language and many others. Self-Expression could also be declaring your personality by the discussion that can be made with other people, by your behavior, actions and many other. Saying the truth is one of part of self-expressing.”

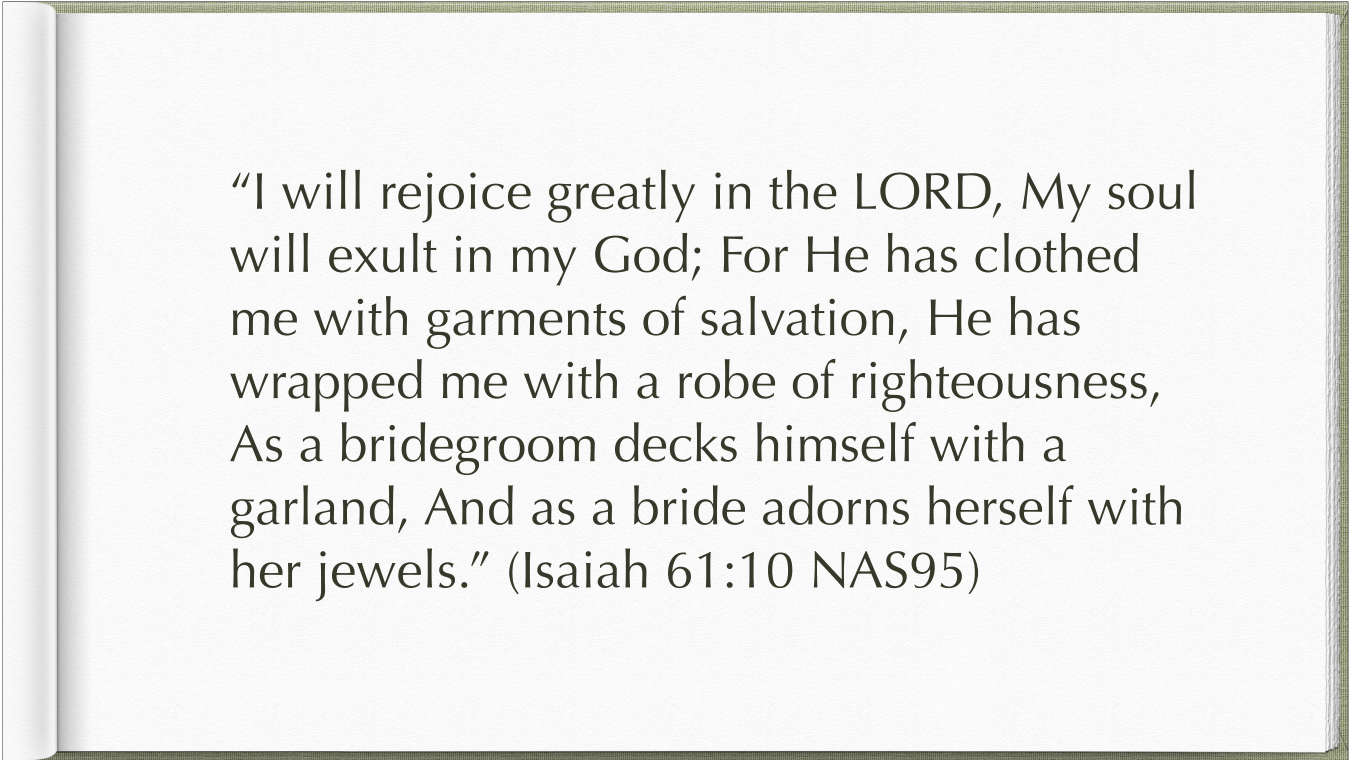
There are three types Self-Expression Skills:

Emotional Expression

Independence

Assertiveness

<<https://rawdhabinhafiz.weebly.com/self-expression.html>> accessed June 12, 2020

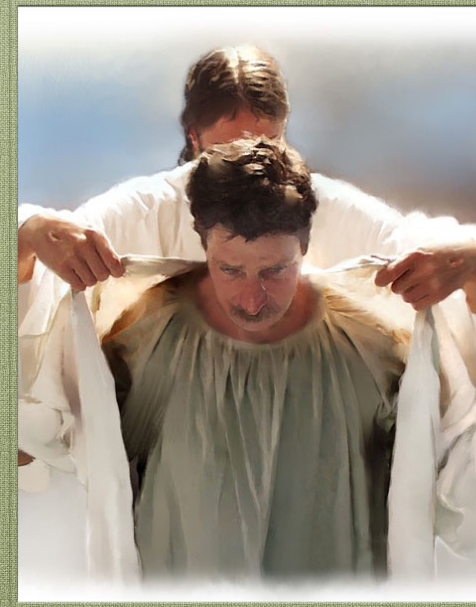
An open book with a white page. The text is centered on the page. The book has a green cover visible around the edges.

“I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul
will exult in my God; For He has clothed
me with garments of salvation, He has
wrapped me with a robe of righteousness,
As a bridegroom decks himself with a
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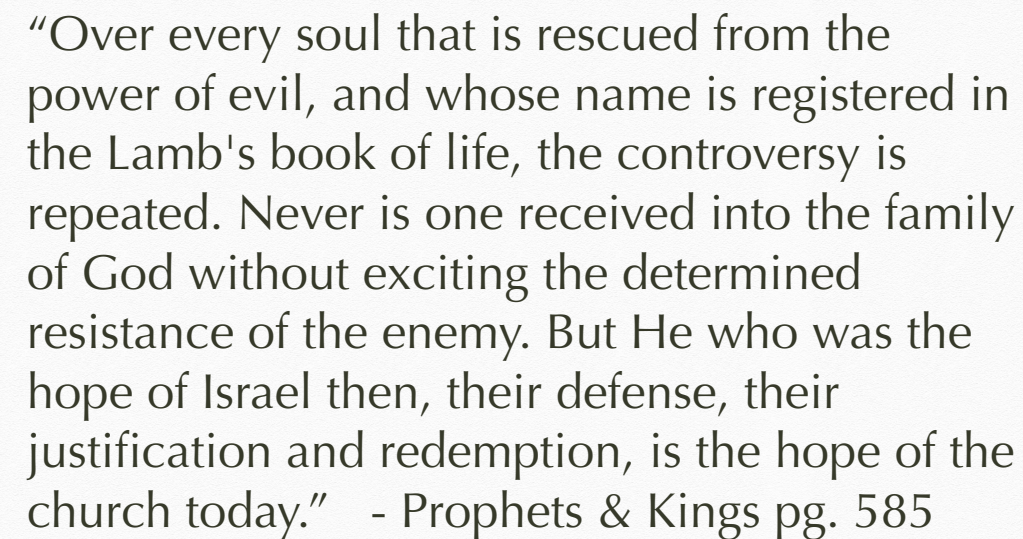
Zechariah 3:7-10

Clothing with Commission



““Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘If you will walk in My ways, And if you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here. “Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH. For behold, the stone That I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its inscription,’ Says the LORD of hosts, “And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. In that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, “Everyone will invite his neighbor Under his vine and under his fig tree.’ ””

(Zechariah 3:7–10 NKJV)

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective. The right page is visible and contains a quote in a black serif font. The left page is blank and white. The book has a light green cover visible around the edges.

“Over every soul that is rescued from the power of evil, and whose name is registered in the Lamb's book of life, the controversy is repeated. Never is one received into the family of God without exciting the determined resistance of the enemy. But He who was the hope of Israel then, their defense, their justification and redemption, is the hope of the church today.” - Prophets & Kings pg. 585

This vision of Zechariah plays out within the Christian life - “Over every soul that is rescued from the power of evil, and whose name is registered in the Lamb's book of life, the controversy is repeated. Never is one received into the family of God without exciting the determined resistance of the enemy. But He who was the hope of Israel then, their defense, their justification and redemption, is the hope of the church today.” {Prophets & Kings pg. 585}



So, while embroiled in this Christian conflict between good and evil, what hope can we seek to be clothed with God's righteousness? The answer is found in the promises of Jesus!



Jesus' coronation in Heaven accompanied His request from God to allow His presence, the Holy Spirit, to overwhelm the disciples and we are promised that same Spirit.

- ❖ ““And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”” (Luke 24:49 NAS95)
- ❖ *ENDUO* - (in the sense of sinking into a garment); to invest with clothing (literally or figuratively): — array, clothe (with), endue, have (put) on.

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Rom. 13:14 But *put on* the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

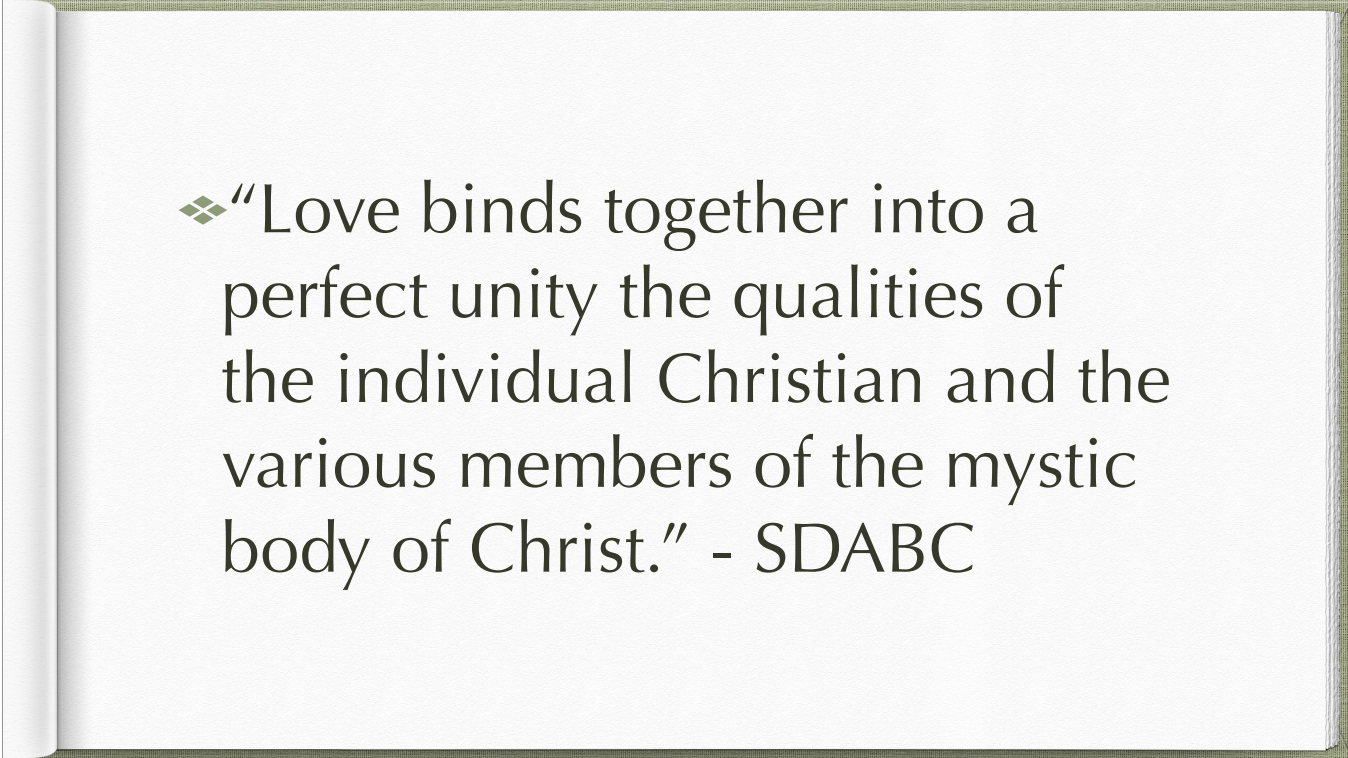
Gal. 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have *clothed* yourselves with Christ.

Eph. 4:24 and *put on* the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.



“Beyond all these
things *put on* love
(*agapé*), which is
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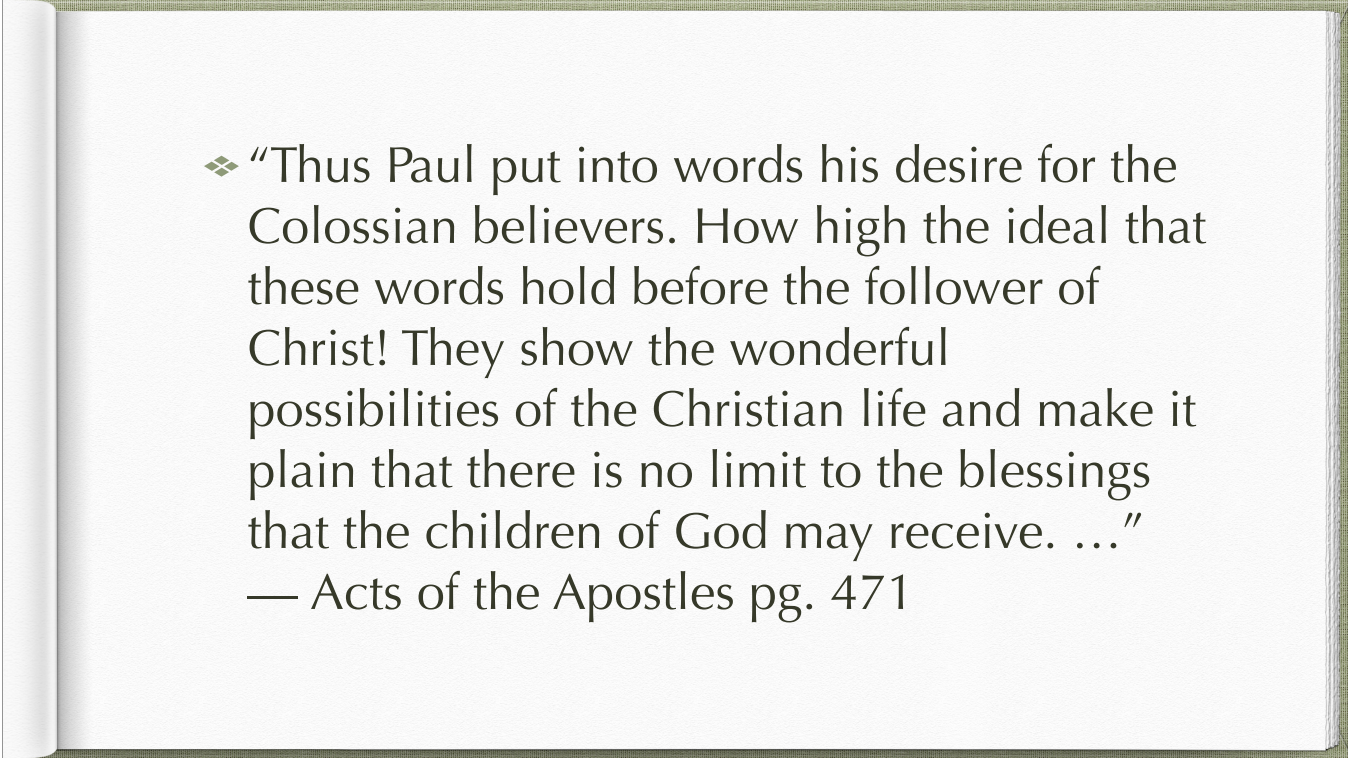


❖ “Love binds together into a perfect unity the qualities of the individual Christian and the various members of the mystic body of Christ.” - SDABC

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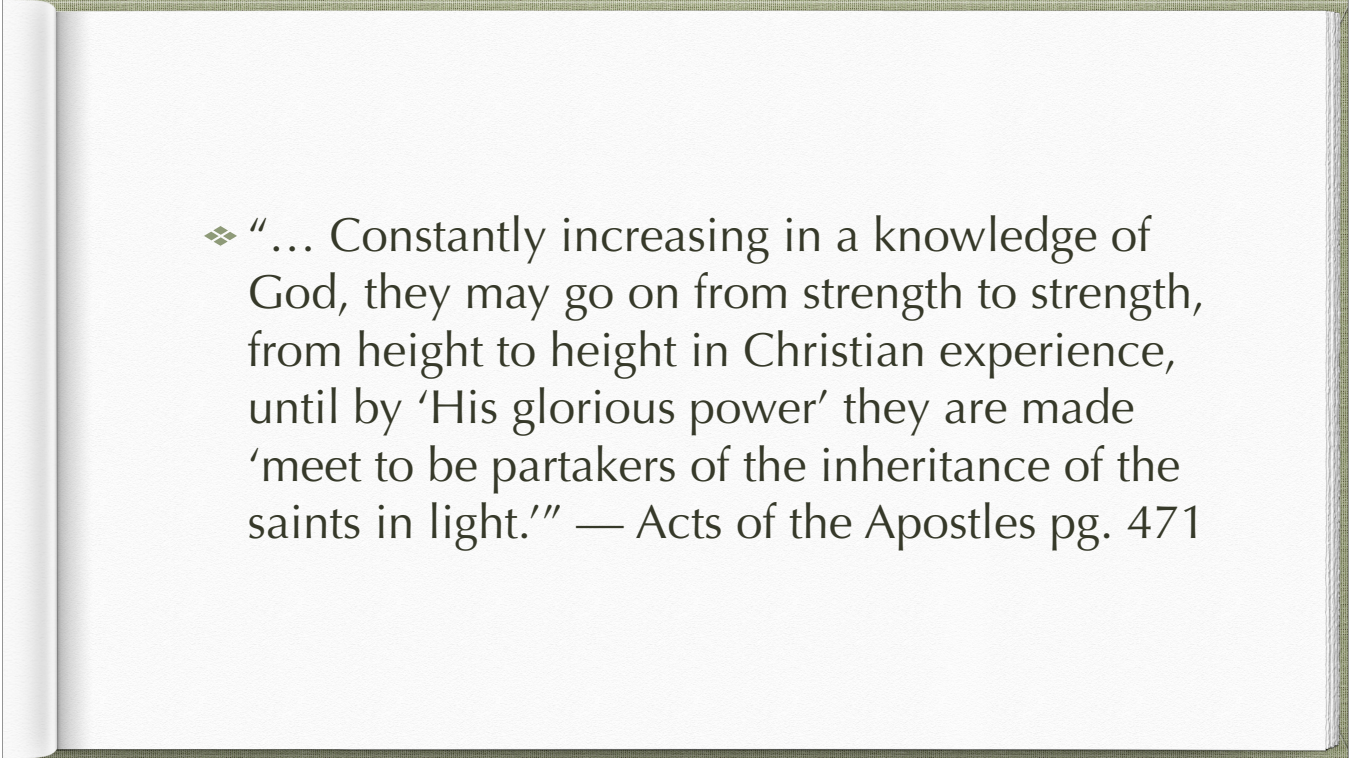


“The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.” (Jeremiah 31:3 NAS95)



❖ “Thus Paul put into words his desire for the Colossian believers. How high the ideal that these words hold before the follower of Christ! They show the wonderful possibilities of the Christian life and make it plain that there is no limit to the blessings that the children of God may receive. ...”
— Acts of the Apostles pg. 471

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❖ "... Constantly increasing in a knowledge of God, they may go on from strength to strength, from height to height in Christian experience, until by 'His glorious power' they are made 'meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.'" — Acts of the Apostles pg. 471

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Many are called... ““Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”
(Matthew 7:13–14)

Contrasted to the Church of Laodicea

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, *that you may be clothed*, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.” (Revelation 3:15–18)

The church at Colossae had a similar condition to its neighbor church of Laodicea. [Col. 4:16] Written from captivity in Rome, Paul’s concern for the believers there stems from the “Colossian Heresy” of festival adoption and Judaizing. [Col. 2:8; 20]

You see, the Jews desperately clung to their traditions and needed the wedding garments which Christ offered.

“may be clothed” - periballoœ; from 4012 and 906; to throw all around, i.e. invest (with a palisade or with clothing): — array, cast about, clothe(-d me), put on.



Appeal Illustration: V Raymond Edman tells of the Scotsman who had a dress shirt he wore only on special occasions. After he had used it several times he would question its cleanness and take it to the window for better light. His wife's words were very wise, "If it's doubtful, it's dirty"!



“Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”

And I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”” (Revelation 7:13–17 NKJV)



Let's be prepared with the Robe of Christ to be dressed to enter into the Kingdom of God. Please pray with me that the Holy Spirit of God would provide His power to *"put on love"*.