

“Faith Matters” # 28 – “What to Wear in 2018” – Dec. 31, 2017

What are you going to wear next year? Our Scriptures have some suggestions. In fact, the Bible talks about clothing right from Genesis through to Paul’s letters. In its opening pages we discover Man hiding from God because of the shame of his nakedness. I guess we’d all feel exposed and naked if we stood before our Creator even if we had our best clothes on. When God finds the Man, Adam says, “I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”¹ Later, as the story goes, God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them².

The Old Testament character Job had an important outfit. He says, “I put on righteousness and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban.”³

In the Bethlehem story, the baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. And then, at the end of his life, 33 years later, as he hung on the cross, they gambled to see who would get his clothing, leaving him naked, vulnerable, and defenceless⁴. After his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples, “Stay here in the city until you have been **clothed with power** from on high.”⁵ Imagine how being clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit comforted and encouraged them.

For us, Paul has some clothing suggestions. He tells the young Christians in Ephesus, “Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”⁶. Unfortunately, too many Christians wear armour not to protect themselves from temptations, but to attack others.

You may not realize it, but those of you who have been baptised have been wearing infinitely priceless clothing all your life! Paul says, “As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ”⁷.

So there’s an entire year’s wardrobe for you: clothed with righteousness and justice along with Job, clothed with power along with the first disciples, and at times, putting on the armour of God to withstand temptation. But above all, whether in joy or sorrow, in summer and winter, we are clothed with Christ.

(¹ – Gen. 3:10. ² – 3:21. ³ – Job 29:14. ⁴ – Mat. 27:35. ⁵ – Acts 1:8. ⁶ – Eph. 6:11. ⁷ – Gal. 3:27.)