

Wrappings

For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.

(Galatians 3:27 CSB)

It is Wednesday evening. I just listened to Sandra Martin's teaching. Excellent! Thank you, Sandra. I appreciate Sandra putting this verse before us, **"holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people."** --2 Timothy 3:5 CSB. I am not sure which translation she was using, but this verse moved me out of a church when I was many years younger and had just become a Christian, reading the Bible for myself, and seeing a big difference between what the Bible called church and what I was attending. Thank God, as Sandra said, for the like-minded believers whose company God has led us into.



Earlier this week, I had written down some thoughts I would like to share:

Be careful that your heart is in your prayers and actions, so that the beauty of the Word and Life do not become rote or cliché—basically meaningless like the fasts of Israel had become to the Lord as mentioned in Isaiah 58. Anyone can go through the motions and perform beautifully *in the flesh* without their heart being drawn by the Holy Spirit. I guess that is exemplified by the wheat and the tares Jesus spoke about.

I had thought a lot about the “armor” in Ephesians 6, wondering if those who put it on verbally each day *consider its spiritual reality*. Sandra pointed it out as weaponry. Spiritually, we put on protection over the tender groin area, the heart and the mind; the pieces we take up go with us into the battles—daily battles. To stand we need to be prepared. I am not going to go deeply into this because, as Sandra also said, each could be a sermon in itself. ***If we take the armor of God seriously, we find it makes us more like Jesus in this life.***

I just want to express a deep appreciation for Jesus—we in Him, and He in us. He truly is our protection, and our strength. In Psalm 62 David said: **I am at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will never be shaken.** (Verses 1-2 CSB)

In David's repentance in Psalm 51 he prayed, **“Do not banish me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore the joy of your salvation to me.”** (Verses 11-12 CSB)

Do we ***treasure*** the Holy Spirit within us and our salvation?

Hebrews 2:3-4 CSB: **how will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? This salvation had its beginning when it was spoken of by the Lord, and it was confirmed to us by those who heard him. At the same time, God also testified by signs and wonders, various miracles, and distributions of gifts from the Holy Spirit according to his will.**

Don't neglect that "great salvation;" you wouldn't neglect your child. Nurture it; protect it; wrap yourself around it; love it; rejoice in it! It is the Father's gift to you. *Then* wrap yourself in Jesus, in the life He intended with its freedom, boldness, righteousness and peace. He is the "Rock that is higher than I."

As I put on my armor, Lord, wrap me up in Jesus.
Righteousness has been restored. My breast is wrapped in Jesus.
The helmet of salvation and all that that includes,
deliverance health and wholeness wrap my head in Jesus.
The belt of truth holds my sword, Your Word never failing
against the powers of darkness always is prevailing.
Then the good news of peace with you,
the armor for my feet, let me spread peace too. Wrap me up in Jesus.
And what's the covering to be complete and shield me from my enemy?
The shield of faith as I cling to Thee, wrap me up in Jesus.