

“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”

Romans 13:14

In 2011, during my ministry in the West Indies, my beloved and I made a visit to the USA. We took advantage of this opportunity to purchase clothes we could not obtain where we resided. On one such occasion, I found in one of the finer stores a clearance sale on stylish pants bearing a highly regarded brand label. I purchased a few pairs, then hurried to my son’s residence to show them to him, assuming he also would take advantage of such a bargain.

I told him of the superior quality of the cloth of the pants, noting their brand and emphasizing that they were wrinkle-free even after machine-washing, and would not require ironing. I showed to him worthy features of the pants, including their razor-sharp creases and double pleats. He agreed that the pants were indeed good – “for an old man!” he wryly added.

He therefore let me know that my taste in clothes were not his own. My beloved and my daughter let me know the same.

Different people like different garments.

The same is true in the spiritual realm.

Some are clothed in *hypocrisy*. They present themselves in public as moral and virtuous. But in private they are immoral and iniquitous. Jesus called them “hypocrites” and told them that “you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness ... hypocrisy and lawlessness” (Matthew 23:27).

Some are clothed in *self-righteousness*. They are unclean in their hearts, and try to cover their filthiness with good deeds. They boast of being holier-than-thou, and brag about what they have done for God. If they were honest, they would confess that “we are all like an unclean thing [e.g., a leper], and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags [i.e., menstruous cloths]” (Isaiah 64:6).

Some are clothed in *immodesty*. They who are unashamed of their shame will expose it. It is interesting to note that when the Gadarene demoniac approached Jesus, “he wore no clothes”; but after Jesus healed him, he was “sitting at the feet of Jesus, *clothed* and in his right mind” (Luke 8:26-35). He no longer proved by his nakedness that he was far from God, controlled by Satan, exposing his shame, and out of his mind.

Let us throw off hypocrisy and self-righteousness, and let us fully cover our nakedness by obeying the exhortation to **“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Let us consider here in our text: 1. the One to wear;

2. the manner of putting Him on.

I. The One to Wear: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.” And wear Him in all these names and titles.

1. *Wear Him as “the Lord”* – the deity possessing all divinity. He is “the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15) – and the “Lord of lords” is also “God of gods ..., the great God, mighty and awesome” (Deuteronomy 10:17). And He is “God manifested in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16).

As God in His incarnation was clothed in our humanity, let us be clothed in His deity.

Let us obey the exhortation to “Put on the beautiful garments” (Isaiah 52:1) by wearing Him who is “the Beauty of Jehovah” (Psalm 27:4).

And let us wear Him as our “robe of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:10). For His name is “Jehovah Our Righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6), and believers are clothed in Him.

I therefore will “be found *in Him*, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith” (Philippians 3:9).

2. *Wear Him as “Jesus”* – which name means “Jehovah Is Salvation” (Matthew 1:21). He was given this name because “He will save His people from their sins” (ibid).

Let us wear “the garments of salvation” (Isaiah 61:10) by wearing Jesus, who is the garment of all who faithfully say “God is my Salvation” (Isaiah 12:2).

3. *Wear Him as “the Christ”* – which title means “Jehovah’s Anointed” (Psalm 2:2). Jehovah’s only begotten Son is Jehovah’s Anointed because the Father has anointed Him for His three mediatorial offices – Prophet, Priest, and King.

- The Christ is the *Prophet* anointed by God to be His spokesman to His people.

- The Christ is the *Priest* anointed by God to represent God’s people to Him, making the sacrifice to God for their sins and obtaining their forgiveness.

- Christ is the *King* anointed by God to rule from God’s throne over His people.

Let us wear the Christ in a three-fold manner:

First, let us wear the Christ as our only *Prophet from God*. For God’s Word tells us that “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son” (Hebrews 1:1f).

Therefore, let us not be of those who wear some

other prophet. Do not follow any “prophet” who rose after the Christ, thereby denying that the Christ is the final prophet from God. Do not follow any “prophet” claiming God sent him with new revelation, thereby exalting himself as the final word from God. And do not forget that Christ the Prophet warned us that “*false* christ and *false* prophets will rise ... to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:24 / Mark 13:22).

Rather, let us obey the Scriptural admonition to “Put on the Christ” as our Prophet from God.

Second, let us wear the Christ as our only *Priest to God*. For “every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man [the Christ], after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified” (Hebrews 10:11-14).

Therefore, let us not be of those who wear some other priest. Do not follow any “priest” daily offering at some manmade altar the same sacrifice which can never take away sins – as many do in their sacrifice of the Mass. Do not follow any “priest” claiming the divine power to forgive us of the sins we confess to them (see Luke 5:21).

Rather, let us obey the Scriptural admonition to “Put on the Christ” as our Priest to God.

Third, let us wear the Christ as our *divine King*. For He is “Lord God Almighty” and “King of the saints” (Revelation 15:3).

Let us own Him alone as our Master, and acknowledge ourselves as His servants.

II. The Manner of Putting Him On: How do we obey the exhortation to “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”?

1. *God must put Him in you before you can put Him on you.* God puts Christ in those whom He regenerates by His grace. If God has put Christ in you, and you are indwelt by Him, you must through faith don Him. Then, He who is *in* you is also *on* you.

2. *Put Him on in Christian baptism* (Galatians 3:27): “For as many of you as were *baptized into Christ* have *put on Christ*.” Christian baptism is our confession of faith. We symbolize in this sacred ordinance that we have put off the garments we formerly wore (e.g., self-righteousness) and that we are now clothed in Christ.

3. *Put Him on by donning things associated with Him.* For example:

First, put on the *new man* (Colossians 3:8-10): “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have *put off the old man* with his deeds, and have *put on the new man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.” We also are exhorted to “*put on the new man* which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:22-24). Our “*old man*” is our native *Adamic* nature; our “*new man*” is the *divine* nature of which we have become partakers (2 Peter 1:4).

Second, put on *Christian virtues* (Colossians 3:12, 14): “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, *put on* tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering But above all these things *put on* love, which is the bond of perfection.”

When the prodigal son returned to his father, the father required that the son’s filthy garment be removed from him and that the “best robe” be put on him (Luke 15:22). So it is when we return to our heavenly Father. He requires that our filthy garment be removed from us and that His “best robe” be put on us. This “best robe” is the Lord Jesus Christ. And all the virtues cited above are associated with Him. Be like the prodigal son and put on the best robe.

Third, put on the *armor of light* (Romans 13:12): “Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us *put on the armor of light*.” Christ is the light (John 8:12, et.al.). He who wears Christ is fully armed against the “works of darkness” (enumerated in v.13b).

Therefore, “put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts” (Romans 13:14).

– Daniel E. Parks