

# Pastor's Thoughts of the Week

*Revelation 19:7: Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

We have here a description of the bride, how she appeared not in the shameless dress of the mother of harlots, but in fine linen, clean and white. We see the evident contrast between the Mother of Harlots found in chapter 17 of Revelation juxtaposed with the description of the bride of Christ in chapter 19. One lives in Babylon the other in the New Jerusalem. One is robed in scarlet while the other in fine white linen. One drunk with the blood of saints the other drinks at the wedding feast with the bridegroom. One a Fornicating harlot the other a chaste virgin. And one rides the Beast while the other is led by the Holy Spirit.

The fine linen, clean and white is the righteousness of saints in the robes of Christ's righteousness, both imputed for justification and imparted for sanctification--the wedding gown is a white robe of absolution, adoption, and enfranchisement, and a robe of purity and universal holiness. She had washed her robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb and these her nuptial ornaments she did not purchase by any price of her own, but received them as the gift and grant of her blessed Lord.

As in the parable in Matthew 22, no man enters into the feast without the provided garment. This lofty imagery depicts the utter necessity to be clothed in the garments of Christ's salvation. This was an ancient metaphor employed by Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Expatriating on this theme the apostle continues, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." Paul and Isaiah both employ the bride motif to press upon the believers to inspire their expectation, their readiness and their sanctification.

If we are listening closely, we might hear the clarion call "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."

Enjoy your day in the power of Christ,

*Pastor*

*Faith cometh by hearing: and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17*