

“The Royal Robe”
Colossians 3:12-14

Introduction:

1. Turn Back In Your Bibles With Me:
 - To Colossians 3 - Where:
 - The Apostle Paul Has Been Describing:
 - What Happens To You When You Put Your Faith:
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ As Your Savior From Sin!
2. In The Words Of 3:9-10:
 - “Ye Have Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds; And Have Put On The New Man!”
 - As A Christian - You Have Been:
 - Radically & Dramatically:
 - **Changed** - By The Grace Of God!
3. You Have Been Made Into A New Creature:
 - And Have Been Given A New Nature:
 - And Now - Along With This Change:
 - You Have A New Opportunity:
 - To Grow In That Change!
4. And This Means:
 - That - As A Child Of God:
 - There Are Some Things:
 - That You Need To **Mortify** & To **Put Off!**
 - Which We Looked At In 3:5-11!
 - But It Also Means:
 - That Now - As A Child Of God:
 - There Are Some Things:
 - That You Need To **Put On!**
 - And This Will Be Our Focus This Morning - As We Look At:
5. 3:12-14 - Where We Are Told:
 - “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; / Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. / And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness!”
 - With These Words - The Apostle Paul:
 - Describes The New Spiritual Attire & Clothing Of The Believer!
 - Because - As You Are Stripping Off:
 - Those **Old** Garments:
 - Spotted By Your Flesh:
 - You Are Not Left Without Anything To Wear!
 - Instead - You Have Been Given:
 - A **New** Garment To Put On:
 - That Reflects The New Nature:
 - That You Have Been Given!
6. **IE:** For Centuries - Whenever A New King Or Queen Or Emperor Was Crowned - They Were Given A Beautiful, New Robe - A Royal Mantle Made Of The Finest Fabrics & Adorned With All Kinds Of Colors & Patterns & Jewels! It Was A Garment Fit For A King! And All They Had To Do Was Put It On! It Was Theirs! But - It Was Also A Privilege That Extended To Their Children - As Princes & Princesses Of The Kingdom - They Too Were Entitled To Wear The Royal Robe!
 - And In Many Ways - This Is True For You:
 - If You Are Trusting In The Lord Jesus Today!
 - You Are A Child Of The King Of Kings!
 - And You’ve Been Given The Great Privilege To Wear:
 - Not Just Any Garment Or Piece Of Clothing!
7. You Are Now Entitled:
 - To Wear The Royal Robe Of Christ Himself!
 - The Mantle Of His Own Nature!
 - And Now - All You Need To Do:

- Is ***Put It On!***

- And This Is What Paul Is Telling You To Do In These Verses This Morning!

- So - The First Thing We See:

- In 3:12 - Is That You Need To:

- Put On This Royal Robe Of Christ:

1. ***Because It Belongs To You!***

- As It Says In 3:12:

- "Put On Therefore, As The Elect Of God!"

- If & When You "Put On The New Man" - It Reveals This Great Truth:

- That You Are The Elect / The Chosen Of God!

- This Is A Description:

- That Is Very Common In The Bible For God's People!

- In The Old Testament:

- The Jewish People Were Known As The Elect Of God!

- In Paul's Message In Acts 13:17 - He Explained That - "The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt!"

- He Chose Them! They Were The Elect Of God!

- In The New Testament:

- The Apostles Were Known As The Elect Of God!

- In John 15:16 - Jesus Told Them - "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit!"

- He Chose Them! They Were The Elect Of God!

- In The Scriptures:

- Jesus Christ Himself Is Known As The Elect Of God!

- In 1 Peter 2:6 - Peter Writes - "Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded!"

- And So - Now - The Same Is True:

- For All Who Believe In & Are United With Jesus Christ!

- You Are The Elect Of God!

- And What Was Said Of His People In Isaiah 43:1 - Is Now True For You!

- "But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine!"

- He Chose You - And You Belong To Him!

- This Truth:

- Ought To Get Your Attention!

- Because It Is A Surprising Truth That Reveals What Took Place:

- Behind That Heavenly Curtain:

- In Order To Bring You To Faith In Christ!

- Yes - It Is True - That When You:

- Trusted In Christ - ***You Chose Him!***

- But - It Was Only Because:

- ***He First Loved & Chose You!***

- In Ephesians 1:4 - We Are Told That:

- "He [God] hath chosen us in him [Jesus Christ] before the foundation of the world!"

- But Also:

- This Truth:

- Ought To Gain Your Affection!

- Because All Throughout The New Testament - And Over 20 Times:

- To Be "The Elect Of God" Is Meant To:

- Comfort & Encourage Those Who Are Discouraged!

- It Should Remind You That:

- To Be A Christian / A Child Of God:

- Is The Greatest & Most Gracious Privilege In All The World!

- But Also:

- This Truth:

- Ought To Give You Assurance!

- Because - Romans 11:29 - “The gifts and calling of God are without repentance!”
 - God Is Never Fickle:
 - With His Choice! Even Though We Are!
- But - According To 1 Peter 2:9 - “Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light!”
 - This Is Who You Are Right Now!
- And So:
 - The Royal Robe Of Christ:
 - Belongs To You!
 - Because You Belong To God!
 - You Are A “Child Of The King” And Are Entitled To This Great Privilege Of Royalty!
 - So Put It On!
 - But Before Paul Explains What This Royal Robe Is Like:
 - He Gives Another Reason For You To Put It On! And That Is:

2. ***Because It Becomes You!***

- That Is - It Suits You & It Fits You!
 - 3:12 - “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved!”
 - So - Not Only Does It ***Belong*** To You:
 - Because You Are “The Elect Of God!”
 - But It Also ***Becomes*** You:
 - Because You Are “Holy And Beloved!”
 - These Two Words Tell Us:
 - Both The Result Of God’s Choice:
 - As Well As The Reason For God’s Choice!
 - And So:
 - Because You Are Now “Holy” Or A “Holy One” –
 - It Becomes Your New Identity In Christ!
 - In Other Places In The New Testament - This Is Translated - “Saint!”
 - This Means That God Has Separated You Unto Himself & Sanctified You - So That You Will Be Prepared For Your New Home In Heaven!
 - And All This Is The Result Of God Choosing & Electing You!
 - So Now - A Life Of Holiness & Righteousness:
 - Is The Kind Of Garment:
 - That Is Just Right For You!
 - It Fits Right!
 - It Forms Right!
 - It Matches Right!
 - Its All Right!
 - No Need To Put On Anything Else!
 - But Also:
 - Because You Are Now “Beloved” Or A “Beloved One” –
 - It Becomes Your New Intimacy With Christ!
 - This Shows The Very Reason For God Choosing & Electing You!
 - It Was Not Because Of Anything He Knew About You Or Saw In You!
 - After All - You Were Altogether Unlovely & Unattractive & Unlovable In Your Sin!
 - Instead - It Was Out Of Nothing But:
 - His Grace:
 - That God Chose To Set His Affection Upon You!
 - This Was The Reason God Chose Israel:
 - Back In Deuteronomy 7:7-8 - “The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: / But because the LORD loved you!”
 - And This Is The Reason God Chose You!
 - In 1 John 3:1, John Exclaims - “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath

bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God!”

- We Ought To Be ***Astounded*** With The Love Of God In Christ! Are You?
- And That Is Why Now:
 - The Royal Robe Of Christ:
 - Becomes You!
 - It Fits Both:
 - Your New Identity & Your New Intimacy With Christ!
 - So Put It On!
 - But - As Paul Describes In The Rest Of These Verses:
 - Just What Is This Royal Robe Of Christ:
 - Is Like - We Also See Another Reason To Put It On!
 - And That Is:

3. ***Because It Beautifies You!***

- **IE:** Its Like The Old Testament Story - When Jacob Gave His Son Joseph - A “Coat Of Many Colors” - Why Did He Do So? It Was A Token Of His Great Love! We Are Even Told This In Genesis 37:3 - “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors!” And So - Joseph Put On That Coat!
 - The Royal Robe Of Christ Is A More Beautiful Coat Than That Of Joseph’s! It Is More Beautiful Than All The Colors Of The Rainbow! And The More You Adorn Yourself With The Nature Of Your Savior, Jesus Christ - The More Beautiful You Will Become! From The Inside Out!
 - And That Is Why You Can Say The Words We Find In 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!”
 - So - Put On This Royal Robe Of Christ:
 - Which Includes:
 - The Character Of Christ!
 - In The Rest Of 3:12 - We Have Another List:
 - Of 5 Character Traits That:
 - Reflect The Character Of Christ Himself!
 - This Is What You Need To Put On! Day By Day & Moment By Moment! You Need To Put On:
 - Genuine Compassion:
 - Which Is “Bowels Of Mercies!”
 - This Describes A Sensitivity:
 - To People & Their Plights - No Matter Who They Are & No Matter What They Are Going Through!
 - Even As Jesus - When We Saw People:
 - With Physical & Spiritual Needs:
 - Over & Over Again - We Read How He Was “Moved With Compassion!”
 - We Need The Compassion Of Christ!
 - So - Put It On! Also:
 - Genuine Care:
 - Which Is “Kindness!”
 - As Part Of The Fruit Of The Spirit - Kindness Describes:
 - An Active & Attentive Assistance To Those In Need!
 - For Their Best!
 - Even As Jesus Himself Is Described As:
 - The Kindness Of God Toward Us!
 - In Ephesians 2:7 - Jesus Was The Right Gift To Meet The Right Need At Just The Right Time - For Us!
 - We Need The Care Of Christ!
 - So - Put It On! Also:
 - Genuine Commitment:
 - Which Is “Humbleness Of Mind!”
 - Could Also Be Translated - “Lowliness” - And Describes A Mind-Set Of Humility:
 - That Will Set The Needs Of Others Over Your Own!

- Even As We Are Told In:
 - Philippians 2:3 - “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves!”
 - True, Christ-Like Humility Will Lead You To Be Committed To The Needs Of Others!
- But Isn't This The Kind Of Humility:
 - Jesus Himself Displayed? Philippians 2:5 - “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus!”
 - His Great Humility Led Him To Great Commitment To You & Your Need Of Salvation!
- And We Need The Commitment Of Christ!
 - So - Put It On! Also:
- Genuine Contentment:
 - Which Is “Meekness!”
 - Another Part Of The Fruit Of The Spirit In Galatians 5 - This Character Trait Displays An Openness To & A Contentment With:
 - God's Own Will & Work - Even When It Seems Contrary To Our Own!
 - To Be Meek Means That You Are:
 - “Easy To Be Intreated!” (James 3:17)
 - It Means That You Are Willing To Welcome Even The Unwelcome In Your Life!
 - And So - When Someone Comes To You:
 - With A Need Or A Burden:
 - You Do Not See It As An Interruption In Your Day Or As An Imposition To Your Life!
 - Jesus Was “Meek!”
 - He Was Content To Follow:
 - The Will Of God - No Matter Where It Led Him!
 - We Need The Contentment Of Christ!
 - So - Put It On! Also:
- Genuine Control:
 - Which Is “Longsuffering!”
 - This Is The Answer To The List In 3:8 Of The Traits We Need To “Put Off!”
 - Instead Of Anger & Wrath & Malice - You Need To Put On The “Longsuffering” Of Christ!
 - This Means - That Instead Of A “Short Fuse”:
 - You Have A “Long Fuse” - And:
 - Are Patient With Others!
 - Especially When You Remember Just How Patient The Lord Has Been & Still Is With You!
 - Psalm 103:10 - “He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. / For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him!”
 - Don't We Need The Control Of Christ As Well?
- All Of These Character Traits:
 - Which Can Be Found In Jesus:
 - Make Up The Very Fabric:
 - Of The Royal Robe That You Now Have As A Christian!
 - And It Will Beautify You:
 - As You Put Them On!
 - But - How Do You Do So?
 - In Matthew 11:29 - Jesus Tells Us To:
 - “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls!”
 - “Learn Of Me” - Jesus Says!
- To “Put On” The Royal Robe Of Christ:
 - You Need To - More & More:
 - And Moment By Moment:

- Look To & Learn From:
 - Jesus! And Pray And Ask Him To Form Himself In You!
- Because Then - You Will Also Be Able To Display:
- The Conduct Of Christ!
 - 3:12 - "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye!"
 - This Is What The Royal Robe Of Christ's Character Is For!
 - It Is To Display His Grace To Others!
 - First:
 - Through Forbearance!
 - As A More "Passive" Response:
 - This Means That You "Put Up" With:
 - The Offenses Of Others:
 - Toward You!
 - Now - This Does Not Mean:
 - That You "Put Up" With & Ignore:
 - Sin & Error - But You Try To Respond With Grace!
 - You Respond Also:
 - Through Forgiveness!
 - As A More "Active" Response:
 - This Means You Are Willing To Offer Pardon For Both The Offense & The Offender:
 - After The Manner of Christ Himself!
 - In Fact - When There Is An Opportunity To Forgive:
 - It Is Time For The Character Of Christ To Shine Through You!
 - These Opportunities Ought To Bring Out The Best Instead Of The Worst In Us!
 - After All - Isn't This How Jesus Conducted Himself:
 - Toward You & Toward Me?
 - "Even As Christ Forgave You!"
 - 2:13 - "Having Forgiven You All Trespasses!"
 - Remember - Jesus Forgave You:
 - Fully & Freely & Finally & Forever!
 - But - He Was Also Proactive In His Forgiveness!
 - Jesus Didn't Wait For You To Seek His Pardon:
 - He Came To You - To Offer It:
 - And To Provide For It!
 - And So - We Too - Need To Be Always "Ready To Forgive!"
 - **IE:** My Grandmother & Grandfather!
 - Can This Beautiful Conduct:
 - Of Christ - Of Forbearance & Forgiveness:
 - Be Seen In Your Life Today?
 - Won't You Look To & Learn From Jesus What It Means To Forgive?
 - And Remember:
 - You Have Been Forgiven Infinitely More:
 - Than You Will Ever Be Asked To Forgive!
 - And Then - Continue To "Put On" What We Find:
 - In 3:14 - Which Is:
 - The Charity Of Christ!
 - 3:14 - "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness!"
 - Genuine, Christ-Like Love:
 - Is The Thread That Holds All Of The Various Parts:
 - Of This Royal Robe Of Christ Together!
 - Love Is To:
 - Generate & Govern & Guide:
 - All Of Your Actions & Reactions:
 - And Interactions With Others!
 - Especially Within The Body Of Christ!
 - In 1 Corinthians 13 - We Are Told:

- What This Love Is Like:
 - 13:4-8 - “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, / Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; / Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; / Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. / Charity never faileth!”
- And It Is This Kind Of:
 - Christ-Like Love - That Will:
 - Complete & Perfect:
 - The Robe Of Royalty That You Have Been Given!
- You See:
 - ***Without The Love Of Christ, You Will Never Look Like Christ!***
 - So - You Must Not Stop:
 - Looking To & Learn From Jesus:
 - For This Kind Of Love!
- So - Put On This Royal Robe Of Christ!
 - It Will Transform Your Own:
 - Character & Conduct & Charity!

Conclusion:

1. So - What Are You Wearing This Morning?
 - Not - Physically:
 - But - Spiritually!
 - As A Child Of The King Of Kings:
 - You Have Been Given:
 - A Royal Robe!
 - It Belongs To You!
 - Because You Are The “Elect Of God!”
 - It Becomes You!
 - Because You Are “Holy & Beloved!”
 - And - It Beautifies You!
 - Because It Reflects The Fabric Of:
 - Christ’s Own Nature!
 - His Character, His Conduct, And His Charity!
2. So - What Are You Going To Do:
 - With This Robe Of Royalty?
 - As You Are Putting Off The Old:
 - Remember To Put On The New!
 - In Essence - This Is The Same Thing:
 - As We Are Told In Romans 13:14 - “But Put Ye On The Lord Jesus Christ!”
3. And As You Do So:
 - Who You Are On The Inside:
 - Chosen & Holy & Beloved:
 - Will More & More Appear:
 - On The Outside - To Yourself & To Others!
 - Because Jesus Christ Himself Is Being Formed In You! (Galatians 4:19)
 - So - Keep “Putting On” This:
 - Royal Robe Of Christ!

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