

The Biblical Christian Identity
"Clothed in Righteousness" Psalm 132:9

**⁹ Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness,
And let Your saints shout for joy. Psalm 132:9 (NKJV)**

I. The clothing of the Priests was glorious –

² And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. Exodus 28:2 (NKJV)

1. *The garments that Aaron and the other priests were required to wear are described in **Exodus 28**, in more than 40 verses, the finest fabrics, gold precious jewels were used to make these garments. These garments were symbolic of the righteousness prayed for by Solomon in **Psalm 132:9**.*

2. The OT priests needed to offer up offerings for their own sins – Christ was distinguished from them because He did not have to offer up sacrifices for His own sin, as He was sinless -

²⁷ who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. Hebrews 7:27 (NKJV)

3. *Sin required death and that was the purpose of the sacrificial system which the priests oversaw –*

¹⁴ But the flesh of the bull, with its skin and its offal, you shall burn with fire outside the camp. It is a sin offering. Exodus 29:14 (NKJV)

³ if the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then let him offer to the LORD for his sin which he has sinned a young bull without blemish as a sin offering. Leviticus 4:3 (NKJV)

⁶ and he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD for his sin which he has committed, a female from the flock, a lamb or a kid of the goats as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him concerning his sin. Leviticus 5:6 (NKJV)

4. *They offered up offerings because they LACKED RIGHTEOUSNESS –*

6 But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. Isaiah 64:6 (NKJV)

5. *Lacking righteousness was like lacking proper clothing –*

A. *Joshua the High Priest was an example of lack of righteousness = lack of proper clothing -*

3 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. ² And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! *Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?*" ³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.

B. *– Christ reclothes us with His righteousness -*

⁴ Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." ⁵ And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head."

So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by. ⁶ Then the Angel of the LORD admonished Joshua, saying, ⁷ "Thus says the LORD of hosts:

C. *Joshua and his companions, as far as they might walk righteously were types of Christ Who was still to come -*

'If you will walk in My ways, And if you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here. ⁸ 'Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH. ⁹ For behold, the stone That I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its inscription,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. ¹⁰ In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'Everyone will invite his neighbor Under his vine and under his fig tree.' " Zechariah 3:1–10 (NKJV)

II. The removing the iniquity in one day is of course a reference to Christ's work of the cross as our High Priest –

¹¹ And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, Hebrews 10:11–12 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)

III. Yet the righteousness He wins for us is still in terms of clothing, what we are to put on as those who are in His image –

1. Put off like clothing -

⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, Colossians 3:8–9 (NKJV)

2. Put on the New Man -

¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all. Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)

3. Put on as the elect -

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Colossians 3:12–14 (NKJV)

IV. This righteousness is from God –

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. Isaiah 61:10–11 (NKJV)

1. Robes washed clean in Christ's blood -

¹⁴ And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Revelation 7:14 (NKJV)

2. This is God's promise for us –

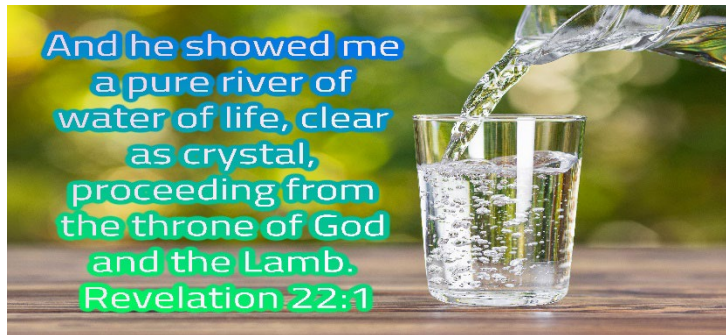
¹⁸ "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)

V. Christ as our High Priest PRAYS for us –

²³ Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. ²⁴ But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever. Hebrews 7:23–28 (NKJV)

1. *Christ is eternal, always alive to help and save us - :23-25 He is praying we'd be conformed to His image.*
2. *He is Holy – :26*
3. *Harmless – :26 free from all guilt and guile and therefore harmless to us. Like a clean, pure glass of water -*



4. *Undefiled – :26 free from bad influence of others*

5. *Separate from sinners – :26*

rather, "separated from sinners," namely, in His heavenly state as our High Priest above, after He had been *parted from the earth*, as the Levitical high priest was separated from the people in the sanctuary (whence he was not to go out), **Leviticus 21:12**. Though justifying through faith the ungodly, He hath no contact with them *as such*. He is lifted above our sinful community, being "made higher than the heavens," at the same time that He makes believers *as such* (not as sinners), "to sit together (with Him) in heavenly places" (**Ephesians 2:6**). Just as Moses *on the mount* was separated from and above the people, and alone with God. This proves Jesus is God.

R. Jamieson, A.R. Fausset, A. R. & D. Brown

6. *He has no weakness - :28*

7. *He is God's Son - :28*

VI. *It is because Christ has such a powerful righteous influence that we cannot accept blatant sinners as His –*

¹⁴ **Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. Revelation 22:14–15 (NKJV)**

1. *These sinners lack true happiness, blessedness –*

¹ **Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; Psalm 1:1 (NKJV)**

A. *These things are found where they do not LOOK -*

² **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. Psalm 1:2 (NKJV)**

B. *Righteousness and blessedness (happiness) is what they will lack FOREVER –*

²⁷ **But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.'** ²⁸ **There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. Luke 13:27–28 (NKJV)**

Those who choose a different sinful identity are not Christians ... 1 Cor. 5:9-13

⁹ **I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰ Yet I certainly *did not mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person. ¹² For what *have I to do* with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? ¹³ But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "*put away from yourselves the evil person.*" 1 Corinthians 5:9–13 (NKJV)**

2. *True Christians realize their great LACK of righteousness and are filled with it by God –*

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)

A. They realize their LACK because Christ and the Bible, God's Law are their standards!

B. OT Priests are rarely called "righteous" though that was their aim / goal / purpose

C. Christ alone brings us the righteousness of God – **Romans 3:21-23**

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:21–23 (NKJV)

Arnold A. Brevick