

Our Christ is Clothed in Honor and Majesty

Psalm 93, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2007

Beloved of the Lord.....Sometimes its important how we dress. When we go to a wedding, we are sure to dress in our best. Usually women will wear dresses, and men will wear suits. Likewise when we go to a funeral, we dress in a respectful manner, usually nothing flashy or for show. And then of course there is Sunday morning when we go to church. What should we wear, and it is important?

While God does not directly address this subject in the Bible, there are general principles in the Bible we should follow. Certainly we should dress in a proper and respectful manner, for we are in God's house. Likewise, we should dress modestly, for our bodies are the temple of God. We should also be careful not to just wear anything to church, as if church is no different from any other function. Really, going to church is somewhat like attending a wedding. Believers are married to Christ by faith, and the Bible teaches that we are the Bride, and Christ is the Bridegroom which we honor. We honor our Bridegroom by going to church, hearing His Word, and singing His praises. Jeremiah 33:11 gives us a beautiful picture of this blessed marriage between the believers and Christ. Jeremiah writes, "The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD *is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: *and* of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD."

That is what we do in church every Sunday by faith. There is joy and gladness in our voices when we sing hymns of thanks and praise to our heavenly Bridegroom. His Word to us is the Gospel Word of comfort, which continually washes and cleanses us of all sin. For God has clothed us not with materials of cotton and wool, polyester or silk, but He has clothed us with His own righteousness, the garment of faith. Let us now consider how Christ is clothed in honor and majesty, and how He clothes us with His own mercy and grace.

Psalm 93 begins, *The LORD reigneth, He is clothed with majesty*; God of course needs no clothing. Holiness needs no covering. Yet Psalm 93 clearly says that God is clothed with majesty. This God is Christ, the God-man. The light of His glory shines so exceedingly that the eyes of men are not fit nor worthy to behold God in all His glory. We are not worthy of His presence because of sin.

The Bible teaches that ever since the fall of man, man has been a child of the devil. All mankind fell under the power of darkness when man fell into sin. The devil and sin were our master and death itself lived in our bones by sin. "The wages of sin is death". Death

passed upon all men, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Even the most wicked and foul men of the earth know that they cannot escape death. Yet there is something far more worse than death, and that is hell. Hell is as real as heaven. Hell is everlasting. Of hell the Lord said, "If thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched." From this we see hell is an everlasting place of fiery torment, "that fire that never shall be quenched." It is the just punishment for man's sins against God. If we are tempted to sin, or if we are beginning to think that we can get away with evil, we ought to fear God's wrath and be afraid of Him. For He is the Almighty God who punishes the wicked while upholding the good. "Our God is a consuming fire." And who can stand in the presence of His wrath? To stand before Him would be like trying to stand before a nuclear bomb and expecting to live after it exploded. Therefore the Bible teaches all men everywhere should repent of their sins! Let us all repent of our sinful lives where we hurt one another with sinful words or hurt loved ones by our anger. God knows our sins and He also knows our sinful thoughts. It is written, "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." Acts 8:22

Truly, there is only one way to be delivered from God's wrath, and that is Jesus Christ. Jesus is our majestic King who on the cross turned away God's anger by sacrificing body and soul into death. Through Christ God's love is now upon you. "For I know my thoughts that I think toward you saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil." After His suffering and death, "He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty." Reigning in heaven, Christ is clothed in honor and majesty. He is our Beautiful Savior. Psalm 93 is about the Messianic Christ. His majesty did not begin in heaven, but Jesus had that same majesty even while on earth, veiled in the flesh. In Christ lived all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Though Jesus had a divine nature, He did not always use His Almighty power. While He performed many miracles of mercy, most of the time His divinity was cloaked and hidden from the eyes of man. Really the word preached by Christ were more important than His divine miracles. His beauty was in His grace. Psalm 45 speaks of Christ saying, "Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever." Part of Christ's majesty then is His mercy and compassion. Though He as a King has the right to punish us all for our sins, our King had compassion upon us. Grace poured forth from His lips.

Continuing on, our psalm now says, *the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith He hath girded himself.*

Picture now a strong warrior going into battle. Christ Jesus went to war on our behalf, His girded Himself with strength, namely His righteousness. He did battle against that old evil foe and death, and conquered them both on the cross so that now God says, "O death where is thy sting? O grace where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law, but thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus won the battle for us, against sin, death, and the power of the devil. On Palm Sunday, the meek and humble Christ rode into Jerusalem knowing very well the battle that lay before Him. He rode majestically into Jerusalem as both a soldier and sacrifice at the same time. Yet He did not turn away from these powerful enemies of sin and death, but He faced them fearlessly. Of Christ Psalm 45:3 says, "Gird thy sword upon *thy* thigh, O *most* mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness *and* righteousness." He won His battle. He gave His victory to you. You only need believe it. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Our psalm continues, *The world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.* Christ is supreme ruler of the world. It is under His dominion and control. Nothing happens without His allowance, His permission. But His blessing is never upon our evil, or that of others. Evil deeds will be punished and "All must stand before the judgment seat of Christ." Yet for the believers there is great comfort in Christ ruling the world. For He rules this world in the interest of His Church. He governs all things so that we are not only brought to faith, but God's Spirit preserves and keeps us in this same saving faith.

Psalm 93 now continues, *Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.* Here now is both the human nature and divine nature of Christ, the God-man. His throne is established "of old". Before the heavens and earth were created, Christ in His divine nature, ruled from everlasting, "of old". While on earth, as a man, Christ yet ruled all things. Forty days after His resurrection, He ascended into heaven. Even now Christ sits at the right hand of God the Father according to both His divine AND human nature. For after ascending into heaven, Christ did not discard His human nature, but kept it. His rule is from everlasting to everlasting. He will always keep and never discard His everlasting human nature. There is comfort for us here, in that Jesus as Man continues to rule for men in heaven. Yet we dare not think of Him as just as man, but the God-man, our truest and best ally while we fight against our enemies here on earth. We have a friend in heaven, our God-man Jesus Christ.

Now verses three and four. *The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. The LORD on high is mightier*

than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. The floods here are raging rivers which overwhelm and drown those who are not prepared for the storm. There is also the sea and the waves which pound against the shore, like a tidal wave. These raging rivers and powerful sea are symbols of this raging world which ever and always seek to overthrow Christ. Nation after nation rises up against God's Church on earth, ever seeking to undermining the faith of all those who trust in Christ. But the Lord on high laughs at these vain efforts of the world. Christ is far stronger than your enemies dear believers! Your Christ is a Rock, a high cliff, a place of refuge wherein your faith can firmly stand. As long as you put your trust in His infinite grace, neither the devil, the world, or your flesh will not be able to separate you from the love of Christ. The Bible says, "In God *is* my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, *and* my refuge, *is* in God." "The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble."

And now our last verse. *Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever.* God's holy Word is entirely trustworthy. We need not doubt His Word, but we are to trust in it, for that is where our refuge and salvation lie in all times of trials and tribulation. Just consider that Jesus once prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." This prayer of Jesus still has power today. God's promise is with you. He will keep and preserve you in the one true faith. After all, you the believer, are God's house, you are His Church, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints on earth. You are holy and beloved in His eyes, for the righteousness of Christ is upon you by faith. The honor and majesty of Christ covers all sins.

And so we close today with the understand, that when we come to church, while we should dress in a respectful manner, but what really matter is that we wear the garment of faith. If you believe and trust in Jesus for your salvation, do not fear, you are properly clothed in His righteousness. Your sins are covered with the honor and majesty of Christ. You are clean through the Word. In God's eyes we are indeed righteous and holy for the sake of Jesus Christ. And so we can all say "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." Is. 61:10 Fear not dear child of God, God has truly clothed you with His grace. His righteousness is upon you by faith. Amen.