

A Great Day in the Kingdom – September 3, 2021

One subject that is becoming less and less of an issue in churches today is clothing. Clothing can give off a good or bad impression, in the human experience. I have a dear friend in ministry that had a T-shirt made up with the wording: "These are my church clothes!" Jesus was swaddled, soon after his birth, as Luke 2 says, "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes..." The shepherds were led to baby Jesus by the angel's clothing description. Clothes have even made it into the narrative of many of our immigrants who tell the story of arriving at the Statue of Liberty with nothing, "but the clothes on their backs." Have you ever heard someone say something positive or negative about the clothes someone is wearing?

We wash clothes, wear clothes, buy clothes, pack clothes and even fold clothes. By the way, if you are bad, the punishment might be an eternity of searching for a pair of socks that match, while folding endless clothes. You may have lived with the generation of parents who would not or could not spend their money on heating the home. When a complaint would be lodged concerning the cold temperature, the parent (usually Father) would say, "Put on some more clothes!"

My Grandad once told me about the Sunday a woman wore pants to church. What a scandal?! My question today would be to inquire as to where the woman was wearing those pants. A Praise God would follow because, at least she was in church. Along with this attitude comes a frequent hypocrisy, with comments I have heard. "We need to give God our best." Our best what? The best of ourselves or our clothes? My favorite thing to see is someone in church wearing sports uniforms or even work clothes.

Clothing and tardiness are not relevant to Almighty God. Every so-often, someone will come into church and exclaim, "Sorry we are late." Church, hear me well! You are never late, just here! Presence is what God requires of us. There will come a time, when we see God's Face. **Psalms 30:11**, "You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy." God does not close His door on the clothes you're wearing. He is simply pleased that you are worshipping Him.

Just think about being clothed in Joy, when you make it to Heaven! You might even be wearing shorts or a T-shirt. By the way, in Heaven God allows us to wear shorts with boots. (Just My opinion)

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help us to consider the clothes You would have us wear. Help us to remember our future in Eternity, clothed in Your Joy. In the name of the Risen Christ Jesus, AMEN.