

Putting On Christ

Rom 13:11-14 11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

I would remind you of the words we considered last Sunday, "Do this knowing the time". Knowing the time that we are living is in this present evil age, in these last days we are presently looking forward to the glorious return of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. And since, we belong to the age to come; since we are just pilgrims and strangers in this present this age, let us cast off the works of darkness. Let us ever be on guard lest we become entangle with the flesh. Let us ever be aware of who we are, a people redeemed by our Redeemer and dear Savior. Therefore let us put on Christ. And thus the question before us this morning is simply this, what does it mean to "put on Christ". That we might more fully understand what it is that we are to "take off" and "put on", I want us to carefully consider first what it means to be saved, and then what does it mean to put on Christ. First then, the three fold state of our salvation, and then secondly, putting on Jesus Christ.

A. The three fold state of our salvation, that is, salvation accomplished, past, present and future.

1. Salvation was accomplished in the past.

a. We were God's elect before the foundation of the world. - Eph 1:4 just as **He chose us** in Him **before the foundation of the world**.

(1) Our salvation is all of God and none of self.

Eph 1:5-6 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

(2) God sent His Son to die for us - 2000 years ago

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(3) Completed our salvation, He has redeemed us from the curse having been made a curse for us.

Gal 3:13 Christ **has redeemed us from the curse of the law**, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree").

b. Salvation is in past tense in another way when He personally gave us awareness of our need and granted us both faith and repentance.

(1) We have been regenerated, we have been born of God, we have been adopted.

(2) Eph 2:8 you **have been** - perfect tense - a completed act in the present time - Eph 2:8 For by grace you **have been saved** through faith, and that **not of yourselves**; it is the **gift of God**.

(3) Salvation has been accomplished. We have been saved, we have been justified.

(4) Thus we can have great comfort for not only have we been saved He will He keep us from falling he will making our salvation secure in Him. - "present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24

2. Salvation is a ongoing present happening in our daily walk. - 1 Cor 15:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received and **in which you stand**, by which also you are saved.

a. We are presently being sanctified - if he has justified he will finish the work. - Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the **author and finisher** of our faith.

b. We need never fear of our losing our present standing in Christ for He will keep us from falling.

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

Phil 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He **who has begun a good work in you will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;

3. Not only is there a past, and present but there is also a future aspect of our salvation.

a. Justification is in the past, sanctification is in the present and glorification is in the future

b. Because the present state is not that perfected state we now groan inwardly while we look forward to that glory that is yet before us.

Rom 8:23-24 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **eagerly waiting for** the adoption, **the redemption of our body**. For **we were saved in this hope**.

c. We look forward to that day when this mortality will put on immortality.

2 Cor 5:2, 4-5 *For in this we groan, earnestly **desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven** . . . 4-5 *For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further **clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life**. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has **given us the Spirit as a guarantee**.**

- d. The greatest joy we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. - 1 John 3:2-3 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is**. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*
- e. Our salvation is nearer, we are not coming closer to our day of death, but closer to that day when we shall be in His presence eternally. - John 17:24 *"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me **may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory** which You have given Me*
- f. And this will be the greatest glory of heaven to be in His presence where there will be no more sorrow, sin nor shame

B. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. - *Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*

1. We have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God and are now children of light.

- a. This is why we are to live contrary to our former selves
- b. This is why we are so grieved when we sin
- c. Remind you that Paul began this instruction with these words, *"Be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."*
- d. Why we Paul instructs us that we are no longer to *"Make provision for the flesh"*.
- e. How thankful we should be that we have been saved from these corruptions of the flesh - Rom 1:32 *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death*

1 John 2:15-17 *15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For **all that is in the world** — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world **is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever**.*

2. We now put off the works of darkness because we are no longer children of darkness - *Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.*

- a. We may enjoy a glass of wine, but we have no time for the drunkenness and revelry of this present world.
- b. We may enjoy the marriage bed but we have not time but we have no time for the lewdness and lust of this present world. Now children of light
- c. We enjoy the friendship of one another but we have no time for strife and envy.
- d. As Paul asked in chapter 6, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?" - Never

3. Now notice the metaphor of putting on the armor of light. -fight against our adversaries

- a. Let us acknowledge that the Christian walk is a battle ground
- b. Therefore let us arm ourselves with God's provision. (Eph 6)
- c. Let us fight against Satan and his deceptive lies.

Promise you happiness and give you sorrow

Promise you life and give you death.

4. What then does it mean to "put on Jesus". It means to have been redeemed and to be clothed righteousness.

- a. Paul is not saying be like Jesus
- b. Rather it is to take on a Christian identity being robed in "His righteousness".
- c. It means we have been given a new heart, a new mind so let us now live in that newness of life.
- d. In a sense it pertains both to our justification, a work that has been completed and to our sanctification, a work in progress.

CONCLUSION: It means to always embrace again and again the one to whom we already belong.

It means to *"lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith"* (Heb 12:1-2)

