

ROBES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

15/11/20

Many people get confused over the method and principles by which God saves his people from their human shortcomings and sins. We are not subjected to a balance sheet of good verses evil every week to see if we are passing or failing. Just as our clothing covers our nakedness, the indwelling Holy Spirit, covers our spiritual nakedness on an ongoing manner. Thus, Jesus not only protects us from the powers of sin and temptation, but from the penalty of such weaknesses... every minute of every day. **GAL3:26** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. **27** For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** (have received the spirit) have **put on Christ** (like clothing... a robe of righteousness for our personal covering and protection).

The bible not only describes the full range of his ongoing mercy towards us, but also details the principles by which our sins are forgiven.

God clothed Adam and Eve, because their covering was not suitable. GEN 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make **coats of skins, and clothed them.** They had made a covering from fig leaves not fulling understanding their ongoing needs. God intervened and sacrificed animals for their covering.

Their choice of clothing was not suitable for the life ahead of them... God gave them much more.

Likewise, in the wilderness. PSA 105:39 He spread a cloud for a **covering**; and fire to give light in the night.

We see the Holy Spirit already being used to symbolise His total protection that is far beyond our human abilities.

The true reality of sin. JAM 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is **guilty of all.** Any failing no matter how small is a total failing of everything. A whole balloon is destroyed by one single pricking anywhere. This is why the belief of an ongoing balance sheet of good and evil is futile. We cannot go back and get baptised and spirit filled every time we sin. A spiritual covering that makes sin invisible for the purposes of Judgement is what we have been given, and explains how we should treat others as well. **MAT 18:21** Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? **22** Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. *God doesn't expect us to do what he is not prepared to do himself... his system should be ours.*

God further reveals the principles by which he chooses to protect us from our sin.

The anointing with its righteousness, stops our nakedness from being seen. REV 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire (walk in the Spirit), that thou mayest be rich; and **white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed,** and that the **shame of thy nakedness do not appear** (our nakedness is always present, just no longer seen); and anoint thine eyes with **eyesalve,** that thou mayest see. **19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. *If we clearly understand how our sin is dealt with, then we can manage ourselves and others in more effectively. Salvation is an ongoing state, not a once off experience.*

In the following verses we see that John totally destroys the argument that sin is managed by self-control alone.

Our day to day status and mode of operation. 1JOH 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we **deceive** ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. *Total abstinence from sin is impossible... little sins, big sins, wilful sins accidental sins are all irrelevant to the overcoming designs God has built in to our salvation.* **1JOH 2:1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not (first stage of sin management). And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: **2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. **3** And hereby we do know that we know him, if we **keep** his commandments. **4** He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not (agrees to) his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Self control does not prevent sin, rather it keeps us in a spiritual state where the complete and effective covering of God is free to do its saving work.

Paul explains the two battles that work within us. ROM 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good (total self control) I find not. **19** For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. **&24** O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? **25** I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God (fully clothed); but with the flesh the law of sin.

The robes of righteousness require a different type of maintenance than our minds... we need to manage the natural and spiritual at the same time.

We have the gifts of the Spirit and are encouraged to walk in them... walking God's way, not ours. GAL 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not **fulfil** the lust of the flesh (bring to completion). **17** For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. **18** But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

We are told to take the whole armour of God (EPH 6:10-13 for protection and covering) so we can fight the real enemy (not flesh and blood) with the best weapons.

Isaiah 61 is a perfect summary to our status in the spirit. Starting with ISA 61:1 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me... moving to **v10** 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.

Sin is not our greatest problem; God has already solved that through the indwelling spirit.... Walking in the spirit God's way, is the most needed of all our disciplines... anything less will fail. God has got us covered!!