

"I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WEAR!"

Every husband alive has heard his wife say that on one occasion or another! The husband is thinking of the myriad of clothes in her closet and wondering what she means by that statement! The wife, on the other hand, is thinking about how every dress in her closet is too big, too small, too old, or too inappropriate for the occasion.

When we get up on Sunday morning to get ready for worship, we often fret about not having something to wear there, too. And while it is important to prepare the outward person, we need to give due attention as well to the inward person. Why? *"...For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart"* (1 Sam. 16:7). So is your heart dressed for worship?!

When getting ready for worship, remember to *"give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness"* (Ps. 29:2). We are called in our worship today to *"serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear"* (Heb. 12:28). That requires some mental, spiritual preparation. What do we need?

Clean Hands & Pure Hearts

God looks upon us this morning to see if we have "clean hands and a pure heart" (Ps. 24:4). That is, He looks to see if we are free from sinful acts and sinful thoughts. We cannot serve our earthly idols during the week and come to God well-prepared. We cannot view others with an eye full of adultery and come to God this morning with pure hearts (2 Pet. 2:14). We cannot be full of hate toward a brother or sister and come serve God without proper reconciliation (Matt. 5:23-24).

Hearing Ears

"Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil" (Eccl. 5:1). Showing up in the auditorium and getting within earshot of the preacher does not guarantee proper hearing! Solomon exhorts us to *"draw near to hear"* which suggests that some draw near not to hear! For years I heard my father preach to his audience and admonish them with these words: **"If you want to get something out of the sermon, then you'd better bring something to put it in!"** When I heard that as a child, I imagined a bucket and thought about how you could put spiritual things in it. If only we could! No beloved reader, we "bring something to put it in" when we bring a heart prepared to hear by (1) familiarizing ourselves with God's Word; (2) meditating upon His precepts; (3) learning Bible words and their meaning; and (4) making good application to ourselves (see 1 Tim. 4:15-16).

Likewise, in every act of worship, we should involve our ready hearts to (1-2) sing and pray with the understanding, 1 Cor. 14:15; (3) give as we have purposed, 2 Cor. 9:7; and (4) examine self during communion, 1 Cor. 11:28.

God's Salvation

"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" (Is. 61:10). Letting God save us from our sins by our willing obedience to the Gospel in faith, repentance, confession and baptism for the remission of sins, prepares us for worship in His church (Acts 2:42, 46-47).

Beloved, are you dressed for worship?!