

Clothing a Naked Christian

John 15:22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

1 Thes 2:5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:

1 Pet 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of licentiousness, but as the servants of God.

Your salvation is fixed, fine, secure. No improvement possible. Perfect and complete. Yet, you have *altogether* to do with your Christianity. Simple, salvation is a gift received by faith and given by God's grace. But then we have a responsibility to become Christians and it is a great challenge. Is there a time in your life when you have put forth time an effort toward being the Christian God desires you to be. He gave us some wonderful tools...the Bible, the Holy Spirit, the church with teachers, Sunday School. The bible...we think of using it on others. And that wrong to look at it that way. It speaks volumes to the one who owns it.

Col 3:3 presents a great challenge. In this verse there is a goal few will reach. It is because it is so hard to crucify self. We have the hope that our life will be like Christ's.

A saved person has two natures. One, the regenerated nature received at salvation as new creatures. The other is the nature of Adam that we were born with. I believe in the eyes of God that he sees only the new creature for I am hid from Him by being "in Christ." Yet, many places in the word we that are saved are reminded that we are subject to faults and failures. And we are challenged to work on ourselves to kill the Adam nature that displeases God.

When you got saved, you did not lose your *ability* to sin. You lost your *desire* to sin and your liberty to sin. I sure wish God would have removed our entire ability to sin at salvation but He did not. Also, the person who says "I am saved" but desires to sin and does willfully sin made a false profession and is not saved.

Murder the "Old Man" Colossians 3:5

God saved your soul, cleaned it up and made it spotless. We need not worry about our soul. It is the flesh and spirit of man that we must be concerned with. And this is work. Many saved folk live "loosely" and "slack." They carelessly allow sin to tarnish their life. Some are too lazy to pray and read the work and some neglect church. To do so is to give an easy path into your life. Why make it easy for the Devil?

Verse 5 refers to a killing. Mortify means "to make dead." Ridding our life of the undesirable takes nothing short of murder. Again, verse 5 makes it clear to us that it is not the soul of the saved person that displeases God but that which is "upon the earth."

There is a list of things to murder:

Fornication- adultery, incest

Impurity- uncleanness

Inordinate affection- affection toward the wrong things in life

Evil concupiscence- evil desire of the mind and heart

Covetousness- wanting. It is possible to turn "wanting" into an idol. The favorite hobby of many Americans is wanting. It is even their God.

Verse 6 cautions that God will pour out His *wrath* on His children who commit such things. Wrath is "hot anger." I advise any man to not get God "fired up."

Verse 7 reminds us that this list of things were natural before salvation. After salvation, they are not natural. Yet, the flesh of man, which is not saved, has the capability to do them. The flesh of man may wonder in the wilderness but will never feel comfortable living there. Get to work and kill these things in your life! Else, they will kill you spiritually and ruin your relationship with your Savior.

Verse 8 and 9 takes us to the closet and shows us the wardrobe of the "old man." It is the garments we wore as unsaved and unregenerated folk. Let's open the door and look inside...

Anger- ill will. Moses should have spoke to the rock but in anger he smote it.

Malice- fostering ill will like a malignity. I think of malice as ill will more than 24 hours old. We are not to let the sun go down on our wrath. If we carry it over to the next day, it is malignant, malice.

Blasphemy- to defame or slander. To speak with the intent to hurt.

Filthy communication- foul, obscene speech. Some see no wrong in what proceeds out of the mouth. They would never steal, for example, but would tell and "dirty" joke. Peter in courtyard.

Lying- defraud by speech. Children lie to parents, businessmen lie to customers, customers to businessmen.

Don't reach into that closet and put these garments on regardless of how strongly the Devil may tempt you. How can you resist? Prayer works every time. The Bible works every time. Davis hid the word in his heart that he might not sin against God.

Put these garments on...I know I can't tell who is saved, but I sure take a look at the man or woman wearing these garments

Wells of mercy---

Kindness---

Humbleness of mind--- humble thinking

Meekness--- humble actions

Longsuffering---

Forbearing on another---

Forgiving one another---

Love---