

# PROPER ATTIRE

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One of the things that this world esteems is fine clothing. Jesus says that “the nations of the world” seek after this, but Christians should rather seek after the kingdom of God (Luke 12:22-34). There are many scriptures that teach us about the proper *spiritual* clothing that we need. For example, 1 Peter 5:5 says, “*Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*” Job clothed himself with righteousness (Job 29:14). Psalm 132:9 called for God’s priests to be clothed with righteousness. Godly and virtuous women are clothed with strength and honor (Prov 31:25). What kind of clothing are we seeking after?

## **Wrong priorities**

Revelation chapter eighteen tells us of the wealthy Babylon that reaped destruction. Verses 15-19 describe the weeping and mourning of her merchants: “The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, and cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.” That is one of the major problems with caring for material things: they don’t last! “*While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal*” (2 Cor 4:18). Jesus has taught us not to care for and seek after physical clothing (and other material things), but rather after God’s kingdom and righteousness (Matt 6:24-33). Obviously, Christians must understand and practice these teachings. Yet Jesus warned us in the parable of the sower that certain Christians are like thorny ground and become “*choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to*

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*perfection*” (Luke 8:14). This happened to an entire congregation, the church at Laodicea. To this erring church, Jesus said, “*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see*” (Rev 3:17-18). What is this “white raiment” he counsels us to buy?

## **White robes**

Revelation 3:5 offers this great promise: “*He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*” Revelation 7:9-17 says, “*After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*” Revelation 19:8 says that this fine, clean and white linen clothing is *the righteousness of the saints*. May we clothe ourselves spiritually in the proper attire to be prepared for eternal life!