

Clothed

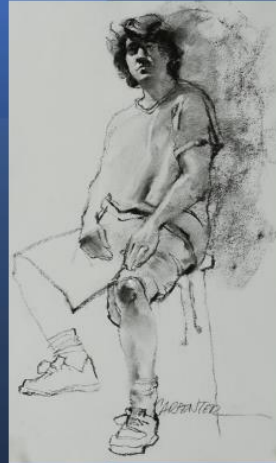
Revelation 16:15

Sooke Baptist Church

Sunday, August 22, 2021

9:30 am, In-person

also on Facebook and YouTube



03:00

Coffee/Question:

In your life, where is God bringing beauty from ashes?

What surprises you the most about how God is at work in you?

LIGHT A CANDLE

Revelation 16:15

Look, I come like a thief!

Blessed is the one who

stays awake

and remains clothed...

Jesus told his church that his return to earth will be like that of a thief who breaks into a home – in the sense that.... it will be unexpected.

Jesus then spoke a blessing, a beatitude...upon his people that has two parts to it.

1. Blessed is the one who stays awake.
2. Blessed is the one who remains clothed.

I'm grateful that with the second part of the blessing...blessed is the one who remains clothed.... Jesus provided an explanation of what he meant.

Revelation 16:15
Look, I come like a thief!
Blessed is the one who
stays awake
and remains clothed,
so as not to go naked
and be shamefully exposed.

It may seem obvious... but I'm still going to say it – when Jesus spoke of remaining clothed, he was not referring to the physical body and the clothes which we use to cover it.

Jesus is referring to a person being spiritually clothed.

So then... what is the spiritual clothing Jesus would have his people wear – so that upon his return they are not found to be naked... and shamefully exposed?

To answer this, we have to step back to the very beginning.

We have to revisit the story of Adam and Eve.

We need to read what happened to them when they disobeyed God.

Genesis 3:6-11

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Genesis 3:6-11

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

While it seems straightforward, we still need to put this tragic event in context.

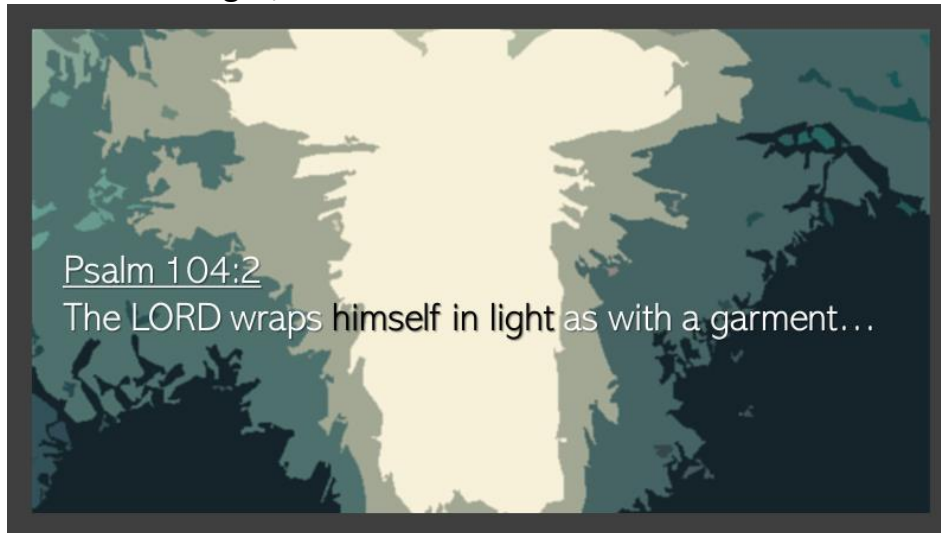
After God created Eve, he presented her to Adam – Genesis 2:22.

At their wedding, which was officiated by God, Genesis 2:25 says, they "were both naked, and they felt no shame."

The act of sin which Adam and Eve committed... this is what caused them... to realize they were naked, and motivated them to make a covering for themselves, only to discover the coverings were not enough...which is why they actually tried to hide from God.

John Simpson, wrote on Quora.com ...

Adam and Eve, who had been created in the likeness of God, were probably clothed with light, like God himself is.



Can you imagine ... being clothed with light?

BLOW OUT THE CANDLE

The moment Adam and Eve sinned, their spirit died and the light within them was extinguished.

Suddenly, the physical side of their being was thrust into a prominence it had never had before.

The nakedness they felt
was not the nudity of the skin,
but the absence of
the glorious brilliance
and splendor of righteousness.

John Simpson

<https://www.quora.com/Were-Adam-and-eve-covered-with-light>

At their wedding Adam and Eve had not felt shame.
But after eating the forbidden fruit...they did.
The shame they felt was because of what had changed between them and God.

Before they sinned, they had daily spoken with God... enjoying his fellowship.

But now... they feared God;
now... they felt exposed;
now... they sensed a need to cover the corruption within them.

When Adam and Eve stepped out of their hiding place, and were asked by God two questions –

(1) who told you that you were naked? and
(2) Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?
... their answers quickly revealed just how profoundly sin had ruined them.

Neither of them answered the first question.
And in answering the second, both placed blame on someone else.

Adam, Genesis 3:12

"The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Eve, Genesis 3:13

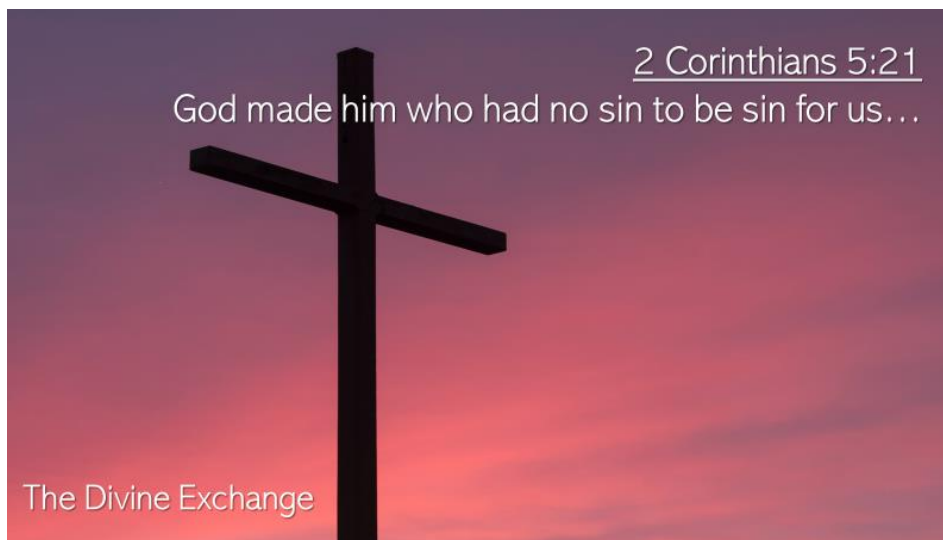
"The serpent deceived me, and I ate it."

God first spoke a curse upon the serpent, saying –
"an offspring... [of the woman] ... will crush your head."
Then God spoke a curse upon Adam and Eve, saying –
"...to dust you will return."

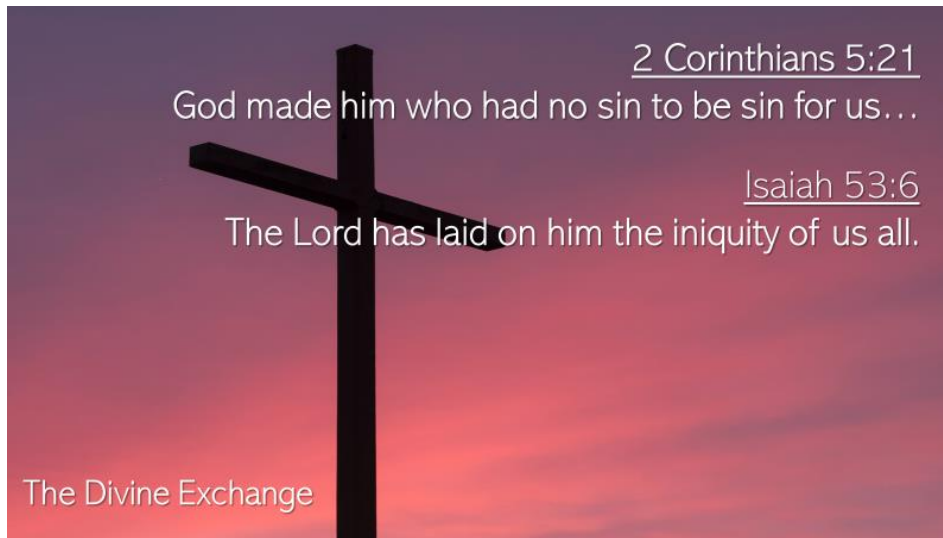
But before God sent Adam and Eve into exile, he did something incredible.



Blood was shed... in order to clothe Adam and Eve.
In covering their physical nakedness... God foreshadowed what his promised Rescuer would have to do in order to cover humanity's spiritual nakedness.
A divine exchange would have to take place.



What specifically did God do?



2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us...

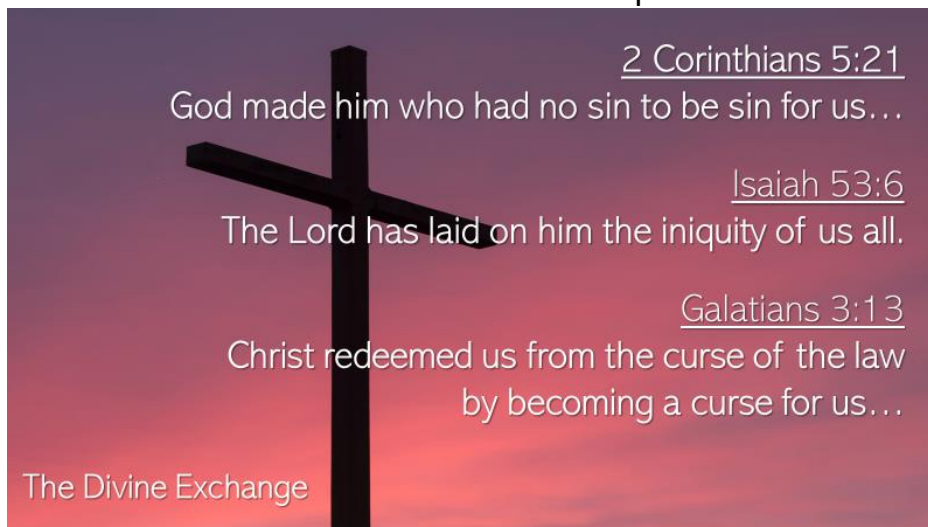
Isaiah 53:6

The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The Divine Exchange

When Jesus was pierced by the crown of thorns, by the nails and by the spear... it was for our transgressions.

When he was crushed... it was for our iniquities.



2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us...

Isaiah 53:6

The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law
by becoming a curse for us...

The Divine Exchange

The wrath we deserved; Jesus took on to himself.

But why?

Look at what the Scripture says.



When a person believes in Jesus, when they trust in him and receive him as the One who is in charge of their life...
... the righteousness, which clothes Jesus like a garment... is placed over their spiritual nakedness.

Jesus restores to those who put their trust in him... what our first parents lost in the garden of Eden.

Have you ever lost something of great value?
Have you ever searched for this lost item...and didn't immediately find it?
Do you remember the angst you felt because something precious was lost?
And when you did find it, can you remember the joy?

My lost wallet in Ottawa?

Humanity has searched long... and has searched hard... for what was lost in Eden.
Humanity has searched even when they didn't know what they were searching for...they just knew something was missing.

The good news of the gospel of Jesus is this... by grace through faith in Christ alone... the righteousness lost, has been restored.

Light the Candle

The divine exchange gives to those who trust in Jesus Christ...



beauty for ashes
joy for mourning
praise for despair
life for death

How then does the follower of Jesus live in response to such marvellous grace... that awakens our dead spirit; that cleanses our guilt; that forgives our sin debt and removes it from us; that adopts us as one of God's children?

Look at what Peter wrote 1 Peter 2:24...



Remember our call to worship from Ephesians 4:22-24?

**...with regard to your former way of life...
put off your old self... and put on the new self,
created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

As followers of Jesus... we die to sin... by putting it off...
...and we live for righteousness... by putting on...
... the new person God has created us to be.

Because our spirits are now alive to God, God's Spirit has implanted within us... new righteous desires...that move us to pursue a way of life that is aligned with who God is.

And because God makes his home within us, his Spirit makes accessible to us power from heaven ... so that we are able to say yes to God and his ways and no to our former way of life.

While our salvation is all of God... our cooperation and participation... in the Spirit's transformation of us... is vital.

Look at Romans 13:14.

Romans 13:14

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

When we place this scripture alongside of Revelation 16:15, it helps us understand what it means to be spiritually clothed.

But it is even more helpful when we read this verse from Romans in its context.

The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Romans 13:11-14

Jesus said to those who've been awoken... blessed is the one who stays awake!

The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Romans 13:11-14

**The day of Jesus' return is almost here...
This is why Jesus said...Look! I come like a thief.**

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Romans 13:11-14

Those saved by grace through faith in Christ alone... are a different kind of human being... God's people have a different focus and purpose to their lives.

The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Romans 13:11-14

Having been justified by faith and given the righteousness of Jesus as a gift of grace...Jesus' followers put on the armor of light... they behave decently... they put on the Lord Jesus Christ... they act like the One whose righteousness clothes them.

Jesus said...Blessed is the one who remains clothed...in my righteousness.

Our confidence as followers of Jesus... that we belong to him... that our sins have been forgiven and removed...is not a prayer we prayed, but that...we live like Jesus lived – 1 John 2:6.

Bottom line – what is Jesus saying to his church; to his followers in Revelation 16:15?

I am coming soon.

Regardless of the trouble you may experience in this world....

...regardless of the inadequacy you may feel, as my Spirit transforms you and you respond to my grace working out your salvation....

...never forget... never step back from... this reality, this confidence, this hope, this certainty....

- I have awakened your dead spirit – you are a new creation.
- I have forgiven your sin... and removed your guilt and shame.
- Because of my sacrifice and your trust in me... you are declared righteous.

Now remain clothed in my righteousness.

... I am your sufficiency.... for every day of your life.

... when I come again...I will make you... in the twinkling of an eye...completely righteous...body, soul and spirit.

This is the hope that fuels our lives in this present time.

Life Connection/Question

- In what ways does today's passage speak truth regarding your identity?
- How do you think the Holy Spirit wants to use the truth in this passage to grow your faith?
- What emotions are triggered in you when you consider the immensity of God's grace?

03:00

The Blessing

Romans 13:14

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

While this may read as a command, it is also a blessing.
Our lack is covered by his sufficiency.

Praise God for the righteousness of Jesus which has been freely given to us!