

THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

October 18, 2009

The Christians Choice Of Clothing Within The Assembly--2

Having discussed some of the objections to God's concern over what Christians wear to the assembly in the previous article, let's now consider some things that each Christian ought to think about before dressing themselves for the assembly.

David changed his clothes. Please take a moment to read **2 Samuel 12:15-20**. In the midst of a very sad yet inspiring passage of Scripture, a bit of information is given to us in verse 20 that is rarely mentioned. David had been fasting and praying to God on behalf of the child he and Bathsheba had conceived in adultery. On the seventh day the child finally died. It is often asked what was the first thing David did upon hearing that the child died? That he went in and worshipped God is always given as the answer. He certainly *did* go into the house of the Lord and worship. However, that was not the *first* thing that he did. Before he worshipped we are told that David "**washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes.**" Why would David have done that? Why not go in the way that he was? Quite simply, David recognized that God deserved better. This understanding lit David's path all of his life. Toward the end of his life we find another example of his recognition that God deserved more than the minimum (**2 Samuel 24:22-24**). Let's note another passage that follows very closely with this thought, after which we will make application.

Present that to your governor. Malachi 1:6-10 says, "**A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, 'How have we despised your name?' By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the Lord's table may be despised. When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the Lord of hosts. And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the Lord of hosts. Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the Lord of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.**"

What does any of that have to do with our choice of clothing to the assembly? As we consider the heart of the problem from Malachi 1:6-10, a great deal. You see, their offering polluted food upon the altar and their sacrificing lame animals to God, while wrong themselves, were just symptoms of a deeper problem. The problem was de-emphasizing the glory of God and the reverence due Him. To show them that they had moved human officials ahead of Him on their list of who was truly important, He asked them if they would offer what they were satisfied offering to Him to their governor? They wouldn't have dreamed of it!

Let's make application. We dress to the occasion. More precisely, we dress according to how important we view an occasion. People always have and they always will. To deny that is to deny personal experience and common sense. Suppose governor Steve Beshear contacted us at our home and told us that he would like for us to come to a dinner as his guests at the governors mansion. Regardless of our feelings on his politics, we each would recognize the honor such an invitation extends. Who among us would go to that dinner in the same clothes we would wear out to a ball game or to the movies? Why not? Isn't the answer obvious? It is simply not appropriate because the occasion demands more of us. Does God deserve less than Steve Beshear?

Many years ago my father was involved in this discussion during a Bible class. I can remember a man raising his hand and disagreeing, saying that God does not care what we wear to the assembly and to claim that we dress to fit our view of an occasions importance was faulty and untrue. The man had recently lost his father, the funeral having been about a week before. Dad asked the man if he allowed his son to wear to his grandfather's funeral what he was wearing right then, an untucked t-shirt with a teams logo splashed across the front, a pair of baggy jeans, and some old gym shoes. The man said that he didn't have to tell his son not to wear such clothing to the funeral because his son respected his grandfather more than that. Doesn't that say it all?

No, the Christian is not given a formal dress code for the assembly. At the same time, we *are* given principles to govern our thinking in preparation for worship. If I admit to myself that the clothing I have chosen would not be appropriate for an audience with the governor, how can I offer it to God? More than that, why would I want to when He offered it all for me? Please think about these things.

In Need of Prayers	Information
<p>Sharon Tirey continues her cancer treatments.</p> <p>Keep Kristen Osterling and her baby boy in mind as he continues to go through some difficulties.</p> <p>Lilly Fitzwater (Bill Morelan's mother) is recovering in a care facility in Ohio. The contact information is posted on the bulletin board in the hall.</p> <p>Chuck McDavitt</p> <p>Ron Catchen</p> <p>David Blakeman</p>	<p>We will meet this Saturday (24) at the building to knock on doors.</p> <p>If you have any additions to the sick list that you would like added to the bulletin, please give them to me in writing. Thanks!</p> <p>Gospel meeting invitations are posted on the bulletin board just outside of the auditorium. Let's support the meetings of our brethren!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">University Height Church of Christ 445 Columbia Avenue Lexington, Ky 40508 859-255-6257 www.uheightschurch.com</p>