

SCRIPTURE: Zechariah 3:1-5  
HYMN: The Solid Rock  
*My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness...*

*Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne!*

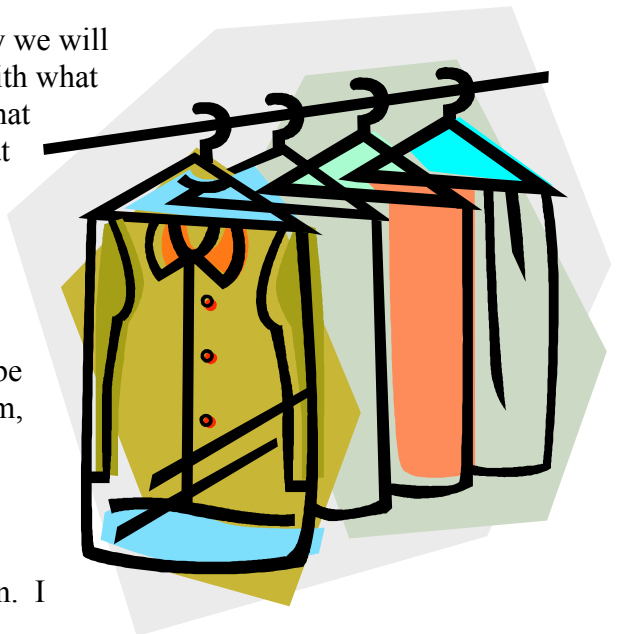
## THE RIGHT CLOTHES

Have you ever had one of those dreams where you arrive somewhere in your pajamas? I have. It was when I was young and I dreamt that I went to school in my pajamas. I was really embarrassed. The dream usually occurred when something important was about to happen at school, and my dream was like a fear of not being ready for it. We wake up from such dreams and feel so relieved that that humiliating experience was not real!

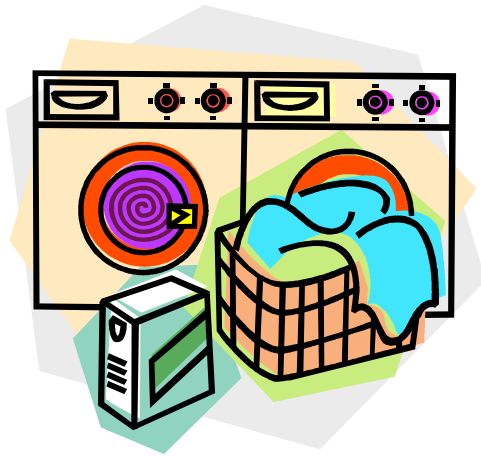
There is actually truth to dreams such as these. In the book of the prophet Zechariah there is a perfect picture of this. Joshua, the high priest, is standing before the angel of the Lord in filthy garments. (Imagine – standing before a glorious angel, who is clothed in a spotless white robe, and you are dressed in filthy clothes. It would be something like going to a wedding dressed in clothes you did yard work in!) The Lord explains that this is a picture of our sin, in verse four. All of us stand before our spotless, righteous Lord this same way. But the good news is, the Lord said this to Joshua (and offers it to us as well): “Remove the filthy garments from him.” Again He said to Him, “See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes.” He goes on to clothe Joshua with a clean head covering. The Lord Himself provides the right clothing for us to stand before Him. We cannot provide it for ourselves. We all are worthy to be accused, as we see Satan ready to do in the first two verses. But again, the Lord defends Joshua- and all of us who are His – and rebukes the devil, telling him to be gone.

We need not have any fear of being ready for the day we will stand before the Lord. He is willing to provide us with what we need to be presentable. All we need to know is that we need Him to do this for us- to agree with Him that we are sinful and spiritually filthy, unable to stand before Him rightfully. This is what He asked of us, this is the heart condition He is looking for: “Yes Lord, without Your provision, I cannot stand before You.” It is then that He will be moved to do the same for us as He did for Joshua. Our fears can be removed. We will know that we are ready to see Him, properly clothed. Are you ready?

One last thing that I reflect on from time to time, regarding this “picture”...it helps me tremendously whenever I find myself tempted to feel condemnation. I



imagine myself standing before the Lord, clothed in the righteousness of Christ (even more specifically- His robe, or cloak, of righteousness), acknowledging in my heart that it is completely from Him- not based on anything I did or did not do- out of His heart to choose me to be His own. (An amazing thought, indeed!) This picture also reminds me that I am His, and that nothing will separate me from His love. Perhaps it will help you, too- may it be so!



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