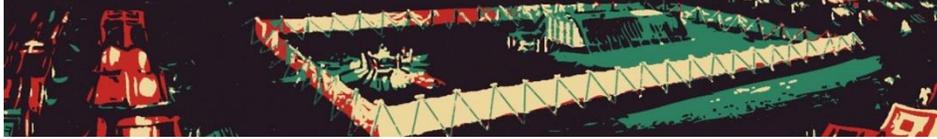


"The Priestly Garment"

Exodus 28:31-35

The Tabernacle of Testimony



INTRODUCTION: If Aaron, the high priest, were to worship the Lord without being properly dressed, he would be slain on the spot. The garments that the high priest wore had a great spiritual application. The high priest in the Old Testament was a picture of Christ, but he's also a picture of the believer, because Christ is our high priest and through Christ we're all made to be a kingdom of priests.

Hebrews 10:19-23, "19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"

I. THE LINEN SPEAKS OF THE BELIEVER'S POSITION

Ezekiel 44:16-18, "16 They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge. 17 And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, whiles they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within. 18 They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird themselves with any thing that causeth sweat."

Genesis 3:19, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Sweat represents man's effort; man's toil; man's labor. But, when we come to Jesus, we cease from our own works, and we rest in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:10, "For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his."

We don't come before Him with sweat. We come before Him with the blood of Jesus Christ; not our own works.

Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"

Hebrews 12:28, "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:"

You serve Me in the unction and the power of the Holy Spirit and not in the carnality of your perspiration (carnal effort).

Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

II. THE BELLS SPEAK OF THE BELIEVER'S PROFESSION (EXODUS 28:34-35)

If the bells did not ring, the priest must die. If the linen represents our rest in Christ, the bells represent our profession of Christ, because when a person trusts the finished work of Calvary, then the very next thing to prove that his faith is genuine is that he begins to confess Christ. He'll ring the bells and tell the people.

Romans 10:9-11, "9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

Matthew 10:32-33, "32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

Mark 8:38, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

It's not enough for you to say that you're resting in Christ, if you're not confessing Christ. One of the clearest signs of genuine salvation is the desire to see others have the same salvation.

III. THE FRUIT SPEAKS OF THE BELIEVER'S POSSESSION (EXODUS 28:33)

When we're resting in the Lord Jesus Christ, there are two distinct manifestations: one is testimony; the other is fruit. The fruit pictures what we are. Not only are we to ring the bells and tell the people; we are to wear the fruit and show the people.

Galatians 5:22-23, "22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

These are nine characteristics that are to be being made manifest in the life of every Spirit-filled believer—the fruit of the Spirit.