

I. Introduction

- A. Children's Sermon:
 - 1. Why did you choose your outfit?
 - 2. Can you see God?
- B. The Law of the Burnt Offering (for Priests)
 - 1. The Continual Burning of God's Holy Presence
 - 2. To Help Others Draw Near to the Fire of God's Holy Presence the Priests had to Where the Cloths God Provided
- C. The Law of the Burnt Offering (for Christians)

1 Peter 2:5, 9–12

⁵ you yourselves like *living stones* are being built up as a *spiritual house*, to be a *holy priesthood*, to offer *spiritual sacrifices* acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. . . .

⁹ But you are a chosen race, *a royal priesthood*, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

II. Wearing Holy Cloths

- A. The Priestly Cloths Represent Righteousness (Zechariah 3:1–5)
- B. Wearing Jesus

Isaiah 61:10–11

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for *he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness*, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a

*bride adorns herself with her jewels.*¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, *so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up* before all the nations.

Exodus 28:2 (40)

² And you shall make **holy garments** for Aaron your brother, *for glory and for beauty*.

C. Becoming the Cloths (Not merely Justification!)

In a memorable piece of acted symbolism, Jeremiah pointed out that God had wanted to ‘wear’ Israel like the linen priestly garment, to display his own glory. But by their idolatries they had become soiled and unwearable (Je. 13:1–11).¹

Jeremiah 13:10–11

¹⁰ This evil people, who refuse to hear my words, who stubbornly follow their own heart and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing.¹¹ For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so *I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me*, declares the LORD, *that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory*, but they would not listen.

Revelation 19:8

⁸ it was **granted** her to **clothe** herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is *the righteous deeds of the saints*.

1 Peter 2:9–12

¹ New Bible commentary: 21st century edition. 1994 (D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer & G. J. Wenham, Ed.) (4th ed.) (Le 6:8–13). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, *a royal priesthood*, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, *that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.* ... ¹¹
Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and **glorify God** on the day of visitation.

III. Helping Others Approach the Holy Fire

Key Idea

To help others draw near to God's holy presence we need God's holy cloths.

A. "Living Sacrifices" Offered to the Fire

1 Corinthians 3:12–17

¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be **revealed by fire**, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.¹⁴ *If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives*, he will receive a reward.¹⁵ *If anyone's work is burned up*, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. **For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.**

B. Wearing Jesus

2 Corinthians 6:3–10

³ We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with **our ministry**,⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great

endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,⁵
beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless
nights, hunger;⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience,
kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love;⁷ by truthful
speech, and the power of God; with ***the weapons of***
righteousness for the right hand and for the left;⁸
through honor and dishonor, through slander and
praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;⁹
as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and
behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed;¹⁰ as
sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making
many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing
everything.

C. The Miracle of the Gospel!

2 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads
us in triumphal procession, and ***through us spreads***
the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.