



Chalmette Church of Christ

October 12, 2008

“Questions and Bible Answers— How To Dress For Worship”

“Dear brother Clem: The way some people dress for church worship disturbs me, and it’s not just teen-agers. Shorts, bare midriff, shirt - tails out, etc., are common. I don’t suggest a ‘dress code,’ but it seems to me something should be done.

—Name Withheld”

The prophet Malachi addressed this principle, although on another subject. Note: *“A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master: if then I am a father, where is mine honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? Saith Jehovah of host unto you, O priests, that despise my name... Present it now unto thy governor: will he be pleased with thee? Or will he accept thy person? Saith Jehovah of hosts”* (Mal. 1:6-8). God, through Malachi, was talking about the people offering sick and crippled animals as sacrifice and even *“polluted bread”* on the alter (v. 7). But the principle is clear: God wants the best from us.

But does the clothing make any difference to God? When Moses came near to God at the burning bush, God told him, *“Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is*

holy ground” (ex. 3:5). God demands that those who approach Him do so with reverence, and that they demonstrate that reverence. When the priests, under the Law of Moses, came before God to worship in the tabernacle (or the temple), God was very precise in what they were to wear and how they were to wear it. *“That they make Aaron’s garments to sanctify him, that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office. And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a coat of checker work, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office”* (Eph. 28:3-4).

Now, I know that all of that was under the old law, and we are not under that law today. But there are certain principles that apply, under any law, when we come before God to worship. Notice again the test: *“Offer it now to the governor. Will he be pleased with thee?”* (Mal. 1:6). If you go to a funeral, you wear clothing that shows respect to the dead and to the family. If you go to a meeting with the governor of the state, or president of the nation, you would wear clothing that shows your respect for them and their office. Dare we do less for God?

The wearing of immodest or indecent clothing (shorts, bare midriff, etc.) has no place in public (1 Tim. 2:9). Period. Much less does it seem appropriate for people who gather to show their respect to God in worship.

God has always demanded the best from man (Num. 18:29). He still does. And our best is shown, at least in part, by the way we dress when we come before Him in worship. The Bible doesn't establish one for their congregation. But I do think that each of us should give careful thought to how we dress when we prepare for our worship. When the prodigal son "*came to himself*" and realized what terrible mistakes he had made, he determined to go home to his father (Luke 15:17). When his father saw him coming, he ran to meet him (v. 20). And when the son began to say, "*I have sinned...*" the father interrupted by telling the servants, "*Bring forth quickly the best robe, and put it on him*" (v. 22).

Friend, when we "come home" to God by being baptized into Christ, He is still saying, "*Put on your best robe.*" I know that isn't literal, but the principle clear. Our worship, our demeanor and our clothing should show our reverence for God when we come together to worship Him.

—Clem Thurman

(To be continued next week)

WHEN THE SKUNK GOT UNDER THE CHURCH

A sister in one congregation related an amazing story to my wife. It seems that a skunk (or two?) got into the crawl space under the church building. An exterminator was called, and he promptly killed the skunk. The problem was, he left it in there. When everyone showed up for midweek service, the smell was so overpowering that everyone got nauseated. The smell remained on their clothing even after they returned home. It sounds humorous, but it must have been a real ordeal! I wonder how many skunks get under churches. They perch under them and really make themselves known. They leave such an effect that it is often carried away from the church building upon the hearts, thoughts, and feelings of church members.

PRIDE is a skunk that gets under churches. Is anything more offensive than self-centered egotism? It keeps people from admitting their mistakes. It causes prejudice and haughtiness. God hates pride (Pro. 8:13). Pride produces dishonor (Pro. 11:2), strife (Pro. 13:10), and destruction (Pro. 16:18). Pride is a skunk!

GOSSIP is a skunk that gets under churches. It is halitosis of the heart. Every word that comes off the tongue of a gossip is foul! God hates it, and it ruins good churches (Pro. 11:13). I imagine it runs people off, too!

PETTINESS is a skunk that gets under churches. Bickering and arguing over the smallest matters is an embarrassment to faithful Christians, a black eye for the church's reputation, and a rank reminder that a spiritual skunk is perched beneath the surface. Biting and devouring is a dangerous business (Gal. 5:15).

LUKEWARMNESS is a skunk that gets under churches. The wishy-washy, uncommitted spirit of the Laodiceans nauseated God (Rev. 3:16). When a church just comes to keep house and is not involved, what a stench the church becomes to the community. A ho-hum attitude is a skunk that gets under churches.

We need to exterminate the skunks by removing them from the church and ridding ourselves of all attitudes and actions inconsistent with the will of Christ. We are to draw all men to Christ (cf. John 12:32; Dan. 12:2) rather than repel lost sinners or other brethren (cf. Acts 13:8). What kind of impression are you leaving on others? Babylon of old was in trouble; consequently, God said, "Its stench shall come up, and its ill savor shall come up" (Joel 2:20). May we learn from them, deciding instead to send up to heaven, and out toward others, "the savor or his knowledge in every place" (2 Cor. 2:14).

WORKS WE SUPPORT

Gospel Broadcast Network

House to House Heart to Heart

Two students at the Memphis School of
Preaching

Curry Montague— Budapest

Morrne Stephanus

Kid's Korner

See if you can answer the following questions:

Answers from last week:

1. Jebusites
2. Shimei
3. Zedekiah
4. Nebuchadnessar
5. Nehemiah

Jerusalem

1. The Babylonians took captives from Jerusalem, and put this man on the throne?
2. The Lord said to Jeremiah that he would break Jerusalem as what is broken?
3. On what did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?
4. Which disciple's mother had a house in Jerusalem where the early church met?
5. Who tied his own hands and feet to warn Paul not to go to Jerusalem?

Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!



Cleaning Schedule

Month of October— Nell, Crystal, and Sarah

Upcoming Events

October 13 Men's business meeting

October 19 Singing and Potluck

October 24 Ladies Game Night

NOVEMBER 2-6 Door Knocking Campaign
and Gospel Meeting with the Memphis
School of Preaching

NOVEMBER 14-16 Light From the Past
Seminar with Dewayne Bryant

Prayer List

Mary Jo Lance
Malcolm Vasquez
Muriel Jones
Joe Riley
Alice Riley
Maggie Fletcher
Bill Burchett
Buck Hall



Sherry Towle
Bob Spurlin
Catherine Grant
Kathleen Grant Dunn
Earl Grant
Alice Grant
Sonny Adams
Betty Grisham
Paul Roberts
Barnabas Tibbs

*All of our brethren scattered
across the United States

* Our men and women who are serv-
ing in the military:

- Ryan Neal
- Wayne Schulz

Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438

Services of The Church
Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

www.chalmettechurchofchrist.org

Chalmette Church of Christ
Post Office Box 1165
Chalmette, LA 70044

Grass Cutting

Schedule

Scott Russell– October 13-18

Charlie Whitley– October 20-25

Robert Gillard– October 27–Nov. 1

