

“Our All-Weather Spiritual Clothing”

Colossians 3:12-14

Tuesday Bible Lunch

October 10, 2017

Introduction: Last week Jon and I took some vacation days and went to Tennessee. We both needed a few days to “re-charge” and to enjoy the beauty of the mountains. One morning while we were there I went into a store that sold ski clothing. One of the garments I picked up had a label that said: “Warning—this innovative product will make you want to go outdoors and stay there.” Properly clothed a person can be in really cold weather conditions and not only survive but thrive.

The same is true in our spiritual lives. If we put on the right “all-weather spiritual clothes” we can not only survive in life’s challenging situations but also thrive. In the Book of Colossians, we see some of the “all-weather spiritual clothing” we need to put on to best handle life’s changing conditions.

Text: Colossians 3:12-14

Background: In view of what God has done through Jesus Christ for the believer, Paul described the behavior and attitude God expects in response (3:12-14)

1. “tender mercies”(NKJV) “compassion” (NIV)
2. “kindness” (NKJV and NIV)
3. “humility” (NKJV and NIV)
4. “meekness” (NKJV) “gentleness” (NIV)
5. “longsuffering” (NKJV) “patience” (NIV)
6. “love” (NKJV and NIV)

T.S. We do not have time today to get all these spiritual clothes on. We will do what we can in our time.

1. **Tender mercies (compassion):** The word denotes trying to understand what a person is going through the best you can. Compassion is simply caring about people.
- If you have been through something you can better understand.
 - No two situations and relationships are exactly the same.

Illustration: Two widows do not understand exactly what the other is going through because no two relationships are exactly the same.

Illustration: I have never had my house flood, but I can have compassion toward those who had their house flooded.

2. **Kindness:** Denotes being adaptable to the needs of others.

- Kindness is a willingness to change in order to meet the needs of other people.
- Kindness is the opposite of selfishness.

Question: How many really kind people do you know? I know a few, but not many.

Illustration: What's mine is mine and I am going to keep it. What is yours is mine and I am going to get it is the philosophy of so many people.

Conclusion: If you are going to dress well each day you will look in the closet and see what to put on. Then you have to take the clothes off of the hanger and put them on. The clothes are not going to jump off of the hanger. It is the same with our spiritual clothes.