

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” -

Psalm 119:105

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Underwear and Outerwear

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I first heard the Presley/Stevens' song, "Immortally Arrayed" the summer of 1989. On November 16th that year, someone I knew burned down my house. The first thing I bought that evening was clothes. It really made me think of Heaven, where we won't have to worry about such things.

God made the first clothes (**Genesis 3:21**). Of course we know that God physically "clothes" everything (**Matthew 6:28ff**), but we are also told to clothe ourselves in certain things and in certain ways.

Underwear is something we all have. Most people know that others also wear certain pieces of underwear, even though they don't see them. Most such things are useful, for warmth or support. Some are even labeled as "thermal," "support," or

“foundation.” They are practical and necessary, but (contrary to some fads) not appropriate to be worn as outerwear. If they show, then they are not underwear, and as such, no longer fulfill the intended purpose.

Colossians 3:10-15 tells us what is to be our “underwear.” Verse 12, in some translations, speaks of the “*bowels*” of mercy - not fancy, but deep inside us is where compassion grows. If it does not come from inside, then we, like the Pharisees, are hypocrites (**Matthew 6, 7, & 23**). **I Peter 3** tells wives that their “adorning” is to be “*hidden*.” **Psalms 45:13** tells us that the king’s daughter is “*glorious within*.”

If something does not come from inside, it is for the wrong reason. A person may think they are fooling another, but usually they are not. Again, think of the Pharisees.

We are to be humble. If we try to wear humility on the outside, then it is not humility. It is an essential part of our underwear. Others can usually tell when it is there and when it is not.

We are to be kind and patient. If a mother tells a child who is trying her patience how much she is putting up with, then that mother is no longer being patient. Her patience has worn thin.

We are to be forgivers. That has to come from inside to be real. Psychologist Archibald Hart (quoted in “Love Must Be Tough,” © 1983 by James Dobson) says that “Forgiveness is surrendering my right to hurt you for hurting me.” Verbally announcing that you forgive someone doesn’t make it so, unless

it truly comes from inside, from the “hidden person of the heart.”

If your underwear is so tight that your face is pinched and you have a perpetual frown, then, even if you are trying to be kind, humble, patient ... you are not being honest with yourself or with others.

And what is the thread that holds it all together? “...above all these things put on love ...the bond of completeness” (**Col. 3:14**). “...though I give all my goods to feed the poor, and ...give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profits me nothing” (**I Cor. 13:3**). “Keep your heart [“underwear”] with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life” (**Prov. 4:23**). “...out of the abundance of the heart [“underwear”], the mouth speaks” (**Matt. 12:34**). Love has to be real! It has to come from the heart - from inside!

What happens to us when we wear our “underwear” – the peace of God, unity, and thankfulness (**Col. 3:15**)? We can sleep peacefully because our conscience is clean. A Christian is to become a new person, and be like Christ. We are made in His image. We love, because He first loved us - no flattery or pretentiousness. “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? ...He who has clean hands and a pure heart ...” (**Psalms 24:3-4**)

As to our “outerwear”, we are all familiar with the “whole armor of God” in **Ephesians 6**. All of it – our shield, helmet, breastplate, shoes, and sword must be strong and sturdy to fight warfare against the most insidious adversary. It is something

that the enemy must see. It is not to be hidden. Satan must know that we are armed and ready to fight for our eternal life! We are not to hide that part of our “clothes.”

Is your underwear in the condition that God wants it? Is your outerwear strong? How are your clothes?

Anger is only one letter short of danger.

“O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!”— Psalm 71:12

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"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).