Invited: Proper Attire Required

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday October 22nd, 2017

Text: Rev. 19:8

### Intro

1. God has made the invitation: “All things are ready! Come to the Feast!” *(Mt. 22:1-14)*
   1. What: The Marriage of the Lamb *(Rev. 19:7-9)* to the church *(Eph. 5:25-27, 32)*
   2. Who: All Mankind *(Jn. 3:16; Mt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17)*
   3. When: Only God knows when *(Mt. 24:36)*
   4. Where: Heaven *(I Pet. 1:4)*
   5. *These things God has prepared and are in His control!*
2. Mankind’s response to the invitation: To be properly attired and RSVP!
   1. Proper Attire Required: Fine, Bright and Clean Linen *(Rev. 19:8; Eph. 5:26-27)*
   2. RSVP: Reserve place at table through obedience to the gospel! *(Eph. 5:23; Gal. 3:26-27)*
   3. *The way we respond to the invitation is under our control!*
3. To be properly attired and RSVP requires obedience to the gospel through baptism – Gal. 3:26-27: In baptism we “clothe” ourselves “with Christ.”
   1. Baptism, the new birth, not only clothes us with Christ (Rom. 13:14: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”) but places us into the church, the body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13), which will be saved (Eph. 5:23)!
4. This attire is NOT optional! – Mt. 22:11-14!
   1. Those who come unprepared (not properly attired) are thrown out!
   2. This parable about a physical marriage feast applies to the spiritual invitation (Rev. 19:7-9) and thus involves our character, which is to properly attire (clothe) our hearts!
   3. “Formal” Attire is required! (Rev. 19:8)
5. As a bride gets ready for the marriage feast by adorning herself in white, the church ought to be preparing to clothe itself in fine and bright linen, the “righteous acts of the saints!” (Rev. 19:8)

#### God Judges the Heart

* 1. The world is obsessed with physical appearances! (What is trendy or fashionable!)
  2. World: Judges by appearance (I Sam. 16:7)
     1. *I Sam. 16:1-11:* Samuel had anointed Saul (head and shoulders taller than any man in Israel, handsome – I Sam. 9:2).
     2. When tasked with anointing the next king, he was looking at physical stature.
     3. Perhaps he was looking for the next “Saul.”
     4. I Sam. 16:7: Man judges by appearance but God judges the heart!
  3. The godly approach is: spend time on inner appearance
     1. *I Pet. 3:3-4: It is not a wife’s outward appearance that will influence her husband as much as her inner life of holiness and submission, thus the focus ought to be on the inner person, adorning the heart.*
  4. God: Judges the heart (I Sam. 16:7; Heb. 4:12)
     1. I Sam. 16:12-13: David, the “runt of the litter” so to speak is anointed King!
     2. I Sam. 13:14: David is the man “after God’s own heart.”
     3. How much time do we spend on our inner self? As much time as on the outer?
  5. While Samuel was looking at the physical, God was looking at the spiritual!

#### Adorning the Heart with Required Attire

* 1. We know how to adorn ourselves physically
     1. Clothing – We have our casual and formal wear, favorites and “must wears”
     2. Hair – We all have our own individual styles, likes and dislikes
     3. Cosmetics – Many people use things to try and cover up and emphasize
     4. Jewelry – Has always been a well-sought after physical adornment
     5. Fragrances – Some people spend lots of time on their perfume/cologne
  2. It is essential that we know what to adorn our Inner Self with!
     1. Pure character springs from the fear of God – Eccl. 12:13-14
     2. Righteous action starts with obedience to the gospel through baptism – Gal. 3:26-27: In baptism we “clothe” ourselves “with Christ.”
        1. Baptism, the new birth, not only clothes us with Christ *(Rom. 13:14: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”)* but places us into the church, the body of Christ, which will be saved! – I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:23
     3. The church *(bride of Christ – Eph. 5:22-32; II Cor. 11:2)* is a warrior-bride *(II Tim. 2:3-4)* thus saints wear the full Armor of God! – *Eph. 6:10-18*
     4. Saints’ manner of life “adorns” doctrine – Titus 2:9-10 *(2:11-14)*
        1. That means to “put on” or “to wear” the “doctrine of God.”
        2. Manner of life must be “worthy of the gospel of Christ” – Phil. 1:27
        3. “Conduct” is our behavior and our conversation (How we speak and act!)
  3. Peter tells us how to adorn our hearts (character) – II Pet. 1:5-11 *(Rev. 19:8: “Righteous acts of the saints”)*
     1. Moral Excellence (Virtue): The determination to do what’s right *(Dan. 1:8)*
     2. Knowledge: Knowledge of the word of God – In it is righteousness *(Rom. 1:16-17)*
     3. Self-control: Application of that knowledge to your life *(I Cor. 9:25)*
     4. Perseverance: Remaining steadfast to the Lord and His cause *(Heb. 10:35-39)*
     5. Godliness: Being like God, as He would have you to be *(Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9-10)*
     6. Brotherly kindness: Tender affection toward brethren in Christ *(Col. 3:12-14)*
     7. Love: Devotion to God, Christ and your fellow man *(Col. 3:12-14: “Put on”)*
  4. Adorning our hearts with the required wedding attire is essential to entering Heaven!

## Conclusion

1. II Cor. 11:2-3: Paul reminds saints that they are “betrothed” to Christ (Deity) and must be presented to Him “as a pure virgin” and not be deceived and led astray “from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”
   1. Christ will present to Himself the church as “holy and blameless!” (Eph. 5:26-27)
2. There is great emphasis placed on white garments, spiritually symbolic of purity!
   1. *Rev. 3:4-5:* There were some in Sardis who were still ***White*** and unsoiled.
      1. Those who overcome will be arrayed in ***White*** and will not be erased from the Book of Life!
   2. *Rev. 6:9-11:* Those who were martyred for Christ are clothed in ***White*** robes.
   3. *Rev. 7:9-17:* Those who overcome the trials of this world will be clothed in ***White*** and will be in the presence of God!
   4. *Rev. 19:8:* The proper attire for the bride of Christ is “fine linen, ***Bright*** and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints!” Bright: “White” (KJV) = Radiant *(G2986).*
   5. *Rev. 19:11-16:* The picture is of Christ the conqueror on His ***White*** horse followed by His army of saints in ***White*** robes on ***White*** horses.
3. Our eternity with God Almighty is dependent on how we adorn our hearts with the required attire for the Wedding Feast of the Lamb! (Rev. 19:8; Eph. 5:26-27; II Cor. 11:2; Mt. 22:11-14)
4. The invitation has been sent out…we are not only invited but as the church we are the Bride!
5. Let us be ready to attend properly attired in “fine linen, bright and clean,” our hearts adorned with the “righteous acts of the saints!”
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!