

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday May 13, 2024 - Job 33: 4

4 The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Read Job 33 for meditation and inspiration.



ONE DAY WE WILL PUT ON THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

TODAY IT IS THE ARMOR OF GOD!

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

The following is a true story.

A pastor who was always excited about the opportunity to baptize, hurriedly took his place to commence the service, then remembered that the woman to be baptized had requested that her nose and mouth be covered as she was lowered into the water. Since the pastor had forgotten to bring a handkerchief into the baptistery, he whispered in a barely audible voice to the assisting deacon to retrieve one from the dressing room. The deacon looked a bit puzzled by his request but hurried off to fulfill it. In a moment, he returned and handed the pastor a hanger, which he thought was what he had asked for. There the pastor stood, fully robed, with the candidate in the water and a clothing hanger in his hand. Picture that for a moment. So, what do you do with a wire hanger at the beginning of a baptismal service? Why you

improvise of course! Fortunately, the pastor had been reading from Galatians that morning which was fresh in his mind. "My dear people," he began, "as the Apostle Paul reminds us, 'All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ'" (Gal 3:27). And with that, the quick-thinking preacher passed the hanger back to the Deacon and proceeded saying this now clothed with Christ our dear deacon will bring forth the baptismal white towel from the baptistry closet to continue with this sacrament and with the rest of our service!

Yes, it is so true that we do cloth ourselves with Christ as we wait for the robe of righteousness but today we need the whole armor of God: The Armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-18 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Amen,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger