

Elder Bobby Willis



Clean Garments

Ecclesiastes 9:8, **“Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.”**

As a child, keeping my clothes clean was not always an easy matter. One Saturday afternoon after all day at church, my parents and I went home with a couple who had a son my age. To say they lived in the country is an understatement. We lived in the country, but by this time we had indoor plumbing. I was to soon learn what it was to take an ‘outdoor’ shower from a bucket drawn from a well.

That boy is now a deacon in one of the churches not far from where I pastor. We love to recall a day when the berries were ripe and (you guessed it) we had a dewberry fight. You can imagine the condition of my white shirt. My dad had other ways of reminding me of the need to keep my shirt white. I had rather he had just read me Ecclesiastes 9:8. It was not my head that got anointed.

Garments in the scriptures often refer to the clothing of our souls rather than clothing our bodies. White garments represented cleanness, purity, and righteousness before God. The part of the phrase that remains ever important are the words **“be always”**. Seven days a week we are to be holy before the Lord, not just put up a ‘religious front’ on Sunday. Our actions, our conversation, our thoughts, and our purposes need to always be clean and free from the pollutants of sin.

Isaiah 61:3 speaks of a garment which should be shared with those who are mourning in Zion. It says to provide for them **“...the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...”** To clothe them with words of truth concerning the love, compassion, and mercy of God will help them to endure the trials they are facing.

For our head to not be lacking in ointment refers to the spirit of joy and happiness. Our demeanor must reflect the trust we have in Christ Jesus, the joy of knowing what He has done for us, and the hope of a better home than this where our garments will always be white and our heads will never lack in ointment. Oh

how wonderful these truths are for a sinner like me, ever thankful for the saving grace of our Lord. **“Think About It!”**