

Templates of Truth with Rick Smith
Audio Script – June 17, 2009

The 2002 movie, *The Tuxedo*, starring Jackie Chan, is a comedy-action thriller about a chauffeur who puts on his boss' tuxedo and discovers it gives him extraordinary physical powers and abilities. That Hollywood fantasy is not so far-fetched, as we will see in today's Templates of Truth.

In writing to the church at Galatia, the Apostle Paul declared, "*For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*" (Galatians 3:4). Paul uses this same phrase in his letter to the church at Rome when he said, "*Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*" (Romans 13:14). The Greek expression in both instances means to sink down into a garment. In ancient Rome, evil men would actually contemplate and literally plan their immoral & wicked activities, thereby making provision for the flesh. If you have been invited to be a part of a wedding party, you plan for the event. You go to the rental store and get fitted for the tuxedo; or, you visit the seamstress and get measured for the formal dress. Careful attention has been given by the bride & groom to the details of the styles and colors everyone will be wearing. Paul urges us not to be so selective in planning what we will adorn in terms of sinful behavior, but to fill our wardrobe with the garments of Christ.

In order to function and survive in the environment of outer space, the astronauts in our NASA program must be trained & equipped with special clothing. Their space suit keeps their body properly pressurized, oxygenated and their temperature stable. Without it, the harsh conditions of space would kill them. Their suit is equipped with special power abilities to maneuver and navigate in a zero-gravity environment; and, it is attached to the command module through a safety harness that keeps the astronaut from drifting off into space should his suit malfunction in some way.

As believers in Christ, we are to function and survive in the environment of the world and its evil conditions. If we fail to properly suit ourselves, the harsh atmosphere of wickedness will take its toll on us and overcome us in defeat. To keep that from happening, we must follow Paul's advice – *put on the Lord Jesus Christ*. It's not like we have to go to the tuxedo store and buy the garment. Paul affirms that if we are in relationship with God through Christ, we have *clothed (ourselves) with Christ* – the wardrobe is already hanging in the closet. All we have to do is put it on. When we do, we will discover that supernatural power and ability has been imparted to us that keeps our body, soul and spirit protected & equipped for survival and spiritual navigation. The emblem on the front bears the mark & seal of our Heavenly Father, and we are permanently attached to Him so that if failure comes, He can retrieve us safely back into His loving care.

Each of us has particular preferences about the clothes we wear. Some are more fashion conscious than others, always wanting the looks and brands of the current fads. Others concentrate more on the fabrics that feel the best, colors & designs that compliment their complexion, hair & eyes, and styles that better enhance or subdue their physical distinctions. It is all in an effort to be fitted with the right clothes. The writer of Hebrews said, *For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and*

exalted above the heavens (Hebrews 7:26). The clothes that we can put on with Christ contain purity, holiness, power and authority. Paul characterized this wardrobe as armor: *Put on the full armor of God...having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God* (Ephesians 6:11-17). If we are to successfully *stand firm against the schemes of the devil*, we must adorn ourselves in the uniform of Christ.

A popular acronym is frequently worn today: WWJD – what would Jesus do? As you pilfer through your dresser drawers and closet, trying to decide what to wear today, you might ask yourself, “What would Jesus wear?” Not only would your selection manifest His modesty and purity, it would also cover you with His divine protection and empower you with His divine nature & power. Whatever you choose to wear today, don’t forget to clothe yourself also and most importantly with the Lord Jesus Christ.

That’s today’s Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in Christ Jesus.

© Copyright 2009 – All Rights Reserved – Renewal Resource Services, PLLC