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It's Cold Out There!

By Teresa Hampton

Brrr... there's a chill in the air. It's time to find my old coat. Often when I put on a coat, I think of long ago when I put on Christ in obedient faith. I wanted to be in him. I wanted Jesus to surround me, so I put him on in baptism. *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ"* (Galatians 3:27).

Putting him on was not complicated. Thankfully, it didn't require an act of Congress or the intelligence of a rocket scientist – this preteen was able to understand the simplicity and importance of putting on Christ.

However, as the years unfolded, I soon came to realize that just as easily as one can put on Christ, one can take him off. He's just as removable as a winter coat. In fact, Satan is ever at work to entice *all* Christians to take Jesus off. He tries to convince us of the practicality of wearing Jesus when it suits us. When we want to satisfy our desires or feed our pride, we conveniently take him off for awhile. He tries to persuade us that Jesus is cumbersome, out of date or doesn't fit anymore, and we should shop for something new.

Truth is, Jesus is a perfect fit for anyone who chooses him. He's never out of date, but has clothed willing souls for nearly two thousand years. He's not cumbersome or heavy (Matthew 11:29-30). We could shop the world over, but being clothed with Jesus is the only way to have eternal life (John 14:6).

The world in which we live is a spiritually cold, sinful place. The only way to survive is to be clothed *at all times* with Jesus, surrounded by the warmth of His love.

Today's verse: *"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord. My soul shall be joyful in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation. He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels"*
Isaiah 61:10.

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