



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Clothe Yourselves in These

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Timothy is writing to the church at Colossae. As you read, if I understand things correctly; this is one of the cities that Paul never visited. It was a city within 100 miles or so of Ephesus. It was fairly close to Laodicea or maybe some of the other cities that were there. Paul is writing to him and there are many things that are similar when read the book of the letter to the Ephesians and also to the Colossians. There are many things that are dealt with. A lot of the writings are the same. There are a lot of comparisons here. There were a lot of things going on. There was a lot of things happening here in the church and Paul wanted to deal with some and Timothy wanted to deal with some issues that were going on with Gnosticism. It was a sect. They called it a religion. However, it was something that was creeping into the church. It was a false doctrine. It was leading some people astray. However, Paul was going to be dealing with it and did deal with it.

Here we want to read in Colossians, chapter 3; starting in verse 12...

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

Colossians 3:14 And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Paul and Timothy; Paul was writing here and speaking. The first thing he says here in verse 1 of chapter 3 is...

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

He tells them here, "Since you are risen with Christ, seek those things which are above." He talks about Christ sitting on the right hand of God. First of all, he is telling them here, since you guys have been saved, since you guys have been born again, then your way of thinking should change. What you are seeking and your desires in life; those things should change since you have been saved, you have been born again. In verse 2, it says...

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

So, he is talking to people who have been born again. He is talking to people that knows Jesus Christ. He is talking to people that has experienced being baptized by the spirit into the body of Christ. He is saying, since that has happened, since the change has taken place on the inside then there are some things that needs to take place on the outside.

That is very true in our lives. If we are saved and since we are saved then the things that are in our hearts and our lives will change our outward talk, appearances, what we do, where we go, how we talk, what we say; it will change those things. It goes on and says here in verse 4...

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Colossians 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Colossians 3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

Now, he is saying here; the next verse here talks about some things we need to put off. When you read this in the original, it brings out the idea of taking off clothes. When you and I get dirty and we take a shower, we take a bath; we normally put on clean clothes. We go out and we perspire, we work and do whatever we are doing. Our clothes get dirty. Since they get dirty, we come in and put them in the laundry basket. We will wash them and put on some clean clothes. It is the same analogy here, it is the same picture that Paul is painting for the people at Colossae. They were dirty but now they are saved. Since they have been saved, then all the filth of this flesh, and all the things that they were doing outwardly; they need to put those things off. They need to get rid of those things.

I have said this many times. When people gets saved their life changed. When people gets saved then our life changes. We are changed from the inside out. He mentions here putting off anger; here in verse 8. Putting off malice, wrath, blasphemy, and filthy communications out of your mouth, and lying not to one another. He says here...

Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

So, he is saying here there are some things we need to get rid of. Things that are dirty. Things that are filthy. Things that we were doing before we got saved. Things that were contrary to the will of God. Things that were very ugly and sinful; he says those things we need to take off and get rid of them. If we are going to have any influence in this world today for Jesus Christ; we cannot do the works of the flesh. It is impossible for us to be a blessing to people when we are doing the works of the flesh, when we are doing all kinds of sinful things and when we are doing things here that are very ugly, things that are very sinful; then it is going to be impossible that we are going to have a positive impact spiritually on people's lives. Paul says here that you need to put those things off. Just like you take off the clothes when you get dirty then you need to put those things off. We need to do those things. If we have been saved we will do those things. If we have been saved, if we have been born again, then we do not do what we used to do. If you are still yet doing what you used to do then you did not get saved. If you are still yet doing these works that he mentioned here then you never got saved. If you cannot control your life, if you are mad all of the time, if you are always blaspheming, if you have filthy communication coming out of your mouth habitually every day; then it is an evident fact that you never got saved. When you get saved, you change. We become brand new creatures in Christ Jesus and we put off all this old stuff; the filth, the dirt, the things that were separating us from God, the sin—we lay that aside.

Here is what I want to talk about. Since we have been saved, we have been born again. We have laid that stuff off and we have put that stuff off; there are some things that we need to put on. Christian people—there are some things that we need to put on just like we put on a shirt of the morning, or a dress of the morning, or clothes of the morning—there are things that we need to put on in our lives. We need to be properly dressed, as Christian people. When we will be dressed that way, the world will be able to see that we are children of God.

If you go down the road and you see a police officer, he usually has a uniform on. You can identify most people with what they wear. Nurses wear nurse's uniforms. We have all kinds of uniforms and clothes that people wear that identifies who they are.

Well, a Christian—somebody that has been born again—we also have some things that we have put on that will identify us as being Christian people. Amen! That should excite us tonight to know that. These are things we put on. These are things that we cannot work up. These are things that are beyond you and me. These are things that you cannot put on if you are not saved. You cannot do it. However, since you got

saved, since you have been born again, and you put off all the works of the flesh, and you have mortified those things, you have killed those things—then there are some things that we can put on that God is going to be able to use in our lives, so that His love and His light can reflect and shine through us.

As we go to work, as we go wherever we go in life, there are some things we need to put on so people can see who we are.

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

We are not lost anymore. We were dead. We were dead in trespasses and sin. According to what he told the Ephesians; we know we were. However, now something has changed. We have been born again. We have taken on the life of Christ. We have taken the nature of Almighty God. We have put off the sins of the flesh. We have taken on the new man. Since we have done that, he says...

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Colossians 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

So, do you know what he is telling us here? He is telling us that since we have been saved—he is talking to people who have been born again—they have put off the works of the flesh. They have mortified these deeds that were so sinful and so wrong. They have put them off. They are a new person. They are a new man now. Since they are a new man then there are some new clothes that they need to put on. amen!

Do you remember how you changed? Do you remember when you got saved? The night, the morning you got saved—we know we were changed on the inside. We felt different. We know that we were saved. We know that we were born again. We know that we had been saved and we know that things had changed. However, can you remember how things changed for you as you started going along, as you started reading your Bible, going to church, started praying and started doing things differently? If you had an issue with your tongue, do you remember how that started getting under control? Do you remember, you had some issues and you had some problems; and we still yet have them. Amen! We still yet work on these things. Do you remember how you started...being able to conquer them a little bit at a time?

What I am saying is that since we are saved tonight, these clothes that we have on—and what I am going to read about tonight—should be very visible in our lives. Look what it says here.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Why should we put on anything? Why is it so important for Christian people to put on anything? Here is the reason. The first reason...

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Do you know what God has done? The God of heaven has called you and me. The word *elect* means to be chosen or called. Do you know what God has done? God has called you and me. We did not have anything to offer God. We had absolutely nothing to offer God. God does not need what I have. God does not need what you have. You and I are the elect of God. If you read the book of Ephesians, do you know what you will find out? You will find out that before the world was ever created do you know what God did? He predestined us to be conformed unto the image of His dear Son. God chose us and called us before the foundation of the world. Do you know what that does? That excites me tonight to know that God knew who I was before there was ever any dirt, before there were ever any trees, before there were ever any stars—God knew who we were. God knew we were going to accept Him. God knew He was going to call and we were going to accept Him. God chose us. amen!

When you read the Bible, do you know what you will find out? You can read about election. Election is a good thing to study about for Christian people. God chose us. God called us. That is one reason that we have some things here that we should put on.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

The word *holy* means different. The word *holy* means to be set apart, to be set apart from all the sinful things here that I just read to you. Not only does it mean to be set apart from those things but it also means to be set apart for the work, and for the labor of Almighty God.

Listen. Since we are chosen, since God has called us, do you know what He has done? He has made us holy. He has set us apart from the world. Since He has done that, He has set us apart for His works. He says that we are the beloved, which means that we are His children. He loves us. He cares about us. Do you know what He wants to do in our lives? He wants to do some great things in our lives. Since that all is the case then there are some things that you and I need to put on so that we can be recognized as His children. We should want to do that. Amen!

The older you get in your Christian life, the more you should want to live a life that is pleasing to God. The older you get in your Christian life, the further you should want to get from the world and the closer you should want to get to God. Amen! That is just the way it should be. We are beloved. We are holy. We are elect. We are chosen of Almighty God.

The first thing he mentions here that we need to put on here is bowels of mercy.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

“...bowels of mercy...” Did you ever think much about that? It means tender mercy. A lot of times, we are very harsh in our life and things like that. Bowels of mercy means bowels of compassion. To be able to show compassion towards people.

In our daily lives, wherever we go, whatever job we may have; we should be showing bowels of mercy. We should be very tender toward people. We should be very tender. We should not be harsh toward people. We should be constantly, and we should have a constant attitude of being compassionate toward people. Do you know why? Because Christ was. When we put on bowels of mercy, when we put on that garment; do you know what people are going to be able to see? They are going to be able to see that. When we are compassionate people here, compassionate toward people who sometimes do not deserve our compassion. Amen! There are some very rough people that we live around and very rough people that you work around. Truth! They can be very mean and very harsh. Do you know what we need to be? We need to put on the clothes of compassion, the clothes of bowels of mercy. When we do that then God will be able to do some great things with us. He will be able to use us. That is something that we do not need to put on and put off. Sometimes we can be compassionate towards someone that we may know, or someone that we may be close to in our family; but when we put on this garment of bowels of mercy then it should be for everybody, day in and day out, week in and week out, month in and month out. It should not be something that we put on then put off. It should not be something that we are very merciful today, compassionate today, tender today then tomorrow we are out of control. It should not be like that.

The second thing is...

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

What do you think about kindness? Do you ever think about kindness much? Kindness is a good word. Do you know that? When we put on the garment of kindness here; kindness means gentleness. It means to be gentle. It means to be good. Kindness means to be useful. Kindness means to be helpful. When we are kind we will want to be useful to people. We will want to be useful to Almighty God. We will want to be helpful to people. Not only that but we are gentle. We are sweet. We are considerate. Truth! When we put on that garment of kindness; do you think that shows in our life? Do you think kindness will really show in your life? Do you know people who are very kind and have shown you kindness, maybe when you didn't really deserve kindness? There are people like that. Not only does it mean kindness, gentleness, sweetness, considerate, and gracious through all and any situation that we may go through—Christian people needs to put on kindness. Truth! If we will put on kindness, do you know what God will be able to do? God will be able to use us and bless us and do some great things with us if we will just put on kindness and to be able to show

sympathy to those where sympathy is due. That is what kindness is all about. Do you know why we should be kind? It is because Jesus Christ was kind. Do you know why we need to have bowels of mercy? It is because Jesus Christ had bowels of mercy. What I am trying to say is that when we put on these clothes; we look more and more like Jesus Christ every day. When we look more and more like Him every day; do you know what happens? The world sees that. The world sees that we are different from what they are—God can use us to be a blessing in so many other ways.

He said here...

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Put on here humbleness of mind. When you look at that it brings out the idea of humility. It brings out the idea of having—get this—the proper estimation of ourselves and who we are. Many times, we get to thinking that we are higher up the ladder than we think we are. Sometimes we get lifted up in pride. Sometimes we get so lifted up in pride that we forget who we are. However, people who has a humble mind are people who knows who they are in their relationship with God. They do not think they are better than anybody else. When we put on the garment of humbleness of mind then it is so easy. It becomes so much easier for us to be able to deal with people. Do you know what pride does? Pride will drive people away. When we come across that we are proud and know more and that we are so smart and that we are better than somebody else is—do you know what that does? That drives people away. When we have humility about us, when we know who we are, if we know we are saved, if we know that we are nothing in God's sight; we understand that then it is easier for us to be able to put other people and their needs in front of ours.

Do you know what Christian people, do you know what people who are humble do? They see other people's needs. Other people's needs become greater than their own needs. Amen! We do not like to admit that and we do not like to follow that rule sometimes. Do you know what we want to think sometimes? We want to think that I am number one. I will get number one taken care of and what I want done and everything I want to get fixed in life then I will work on something else. Do you know what? You are not going to get too far with God when you do that.

Listen. We need to understand that other people's needs—when I know who I am and when I am living as I should be living. When I know that I am saved and born again, then do you know what I am not going to have any problem doing? I am not going to have any problem letting some of things that I think are so important in my life go so that I can go help somebody else. Amen! Do you know what? A lot of you guys do that. It is something that some of us needs to learn here is that your life and what you want to do in life and your will—there are things more important than that. Amen! That is to be able to help other people.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of

mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

The word meekness here—we think about meekness as being weakness; but meekness is not weakness at all. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ was a very meek man. We know that Moses was a meek person but we know that they were not weak. Do you know what Jesus could have done? Jesus could have done—Jesus had all the power that He could have done anything He wanted to do because He had the power to do it. Yet, He did not do it. He was a very meek man. Do you know what meekness means? It means we have power but that power is under control.

I thought today and read today, as we were outside today and the wind was blowing softly, it was warm air. I thought it was so great to be here. It was so great to be outside. It was soothing. It was so comfortable to be...to feel the warm air blowing. However, the same wind that was blowing softly and slowly and that was very gentle today is the same wind that can blow down houses... When you and I are meek, we are people that are meek. We are humble people. We have a lot of power in our lives but we learn how to control that power. That is what Jesus Christ did. He was a very humble person.

We need to put on meekness. We need to understand who we are. We need to understand the place we have in Christ, and when we do that then it is not a problem for us to be meek. It is not a problem for us to get where we need to be with God.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Longsuffering is a good one here. It says here that we need to put on longsuffering. This is a good one for most of us. The word *longsuffering* means to be long tempered. In life—I will tell you this that I am still yet working on this. Maybe you have got this one conquered but I am still yet working on it. Sometimes I am not near as patient or longsuffering with people as I am at other times. There are times that everything in the world can be going wrong and I can sit and smile. I will not say a whole lot. I try to fix what I can fix with people or whatever it is then I can move on. I can keep my mouth shut, sometimes. Sometimes I cannot. I will say this too. I would say if I go home with you guys and talk to your husbands and wives; do you know what they would tell me? Sometimes you are like that too. Sometimes we cannot keep our mouths shut. Sometimes we are not longsuffering with people.

However, the garment that he says we need to put on here is a garment here that even when people are provoking us, we need to be longsuffering with them. Even when people are trying to provoke us to do things that are wrong and to anger us. People do that from time to time. We need to be longsuffering towards them you know, Jesus Christ got angry. I know when I say that that some of you do not agree with that. However, if you read when He goes into the temple one day and makes Him a scourge. He turns over the money changers' tables. He drives out the cattle. I will guarantee you that there was some anger going on. okay? I am not saying that is something we should do every day. I am not saying that. I am saying this.

Longsuffering is something that we need to work on. Longsuffering towards people. Longsuffering with people. Even though they are doing wrong. The Pharisees and Sadducees were very hypocritical people. Weren't they? The reason I can say that is because Jesus said they were. When you read different places in the gospel, we know that Jesus looked at them and said, "You are just a bunch of hypocrites." Even though they were, He was longsuffering with those guys.

Even though Judas was a guy that He called and Judas was with Him for three years or so; He knew exactly who Judas was. Jesus was very longsuffering with Judas. Truth! Jesus knew what was going to happen. Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray Him. Yet, He was very longsuffering with him.

You and I today, we need to be longsuffering toward people.

I have said this before in the last several months. I prayed for my dad for forty years. There were times I thought he would never get saved. There were times when I would mention to him about getting saved and making things right with God; He would curse, scream, holler and carry on and do all kinds of things and just about run you off...but I did not give up. I did not get mad at him. Even though on the inside I wanted to grab him and shake him. I did not do that. I continued to pray and seek the face of God. I continued to ask. In the latter years, I saw dad getting quieter and calmer. I would go to the house, in the last five or six years that he lived; I would talk to him. When I would get ready to leave...I would get down by him and say, "Dad I'm going to pray with you." He would give me his hand and he would listen to me pray. I did that for four or five years. You all know the story. Just 40 some days before he died, dad surrendered his life to the Lord. What I am saying is this. Longsuffering pays off. Longsuffering with people pays off.

Do you know what I could have done? I could have said some things and I could have drove him away and other people that God has allowed us to talk to. I could drove them all away or some away and never have the opportunity to see them saved. By being longsuffering with people, people that sometimes do not like you, people that says mean things to you, sometimes they are very harsh and says all kinds of junk sometimes and want to put you on a guilt trip sometimes... Be patient with them. Some of them are your family. Some of them are your children. Some of them are your co-workers. Let us keep our tongue under control. Let us keep our... Let us put on not only humility and not only these other graces here but let us put on longsuffering. If we will do that and be longsuffering towards people in every circumstance; do you know what God will do? God will help us. There are times that you need to just listen and walk away. I am not talking about letting people beat on you. I am not talking about that. However, there are sometimes that we need to just keep our mouths shut.

Forbearance is another one and forgiveness is another one. I do not have time to get into those two. I do want to say this. The greatest of these graces is love. When you read down in verse 14...

Colossians 3:14 And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Do you know what holds all these things together? What holds kindness, mercy, and our humble mind, meekness, and longsuffering and forbearance; do you know what holds all of that together? Do you know what makes it possible for us to have all these virtues and all these graces in our life? L-O-V-E If you have that, that holds all these other things together. That binds all these other things together.

Listen. If you do not love, you cannot have a humble spirit. If you cannot love, you do not know what meekness is. If you cannot love, you are out of control. You are not longsuffering. Love holds all these things together.

One other thought. It says here over in verse 15...

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

I did not know really what that word meant until some time ago. I looked it up. The word here *rule* in the original, means umpire.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

“Let the peace of God umpire your heart.” Think about that. Let the peace of God call the shots in your heart. Let the peace keep everything in your heart where it needs to be. Let the peace of God call the balls and strikes. Amen! He can see them and I cannot. Let the peace of God call the foul balls. Amen! Let Him do that. When we will do that He will do some great things in our life. Let Him umpire. Let peace umpire your life. Let peace have control of your life. Let peace have control of your heart. Being humble, longsuffering, gentle of mind, kindness and all these things. It will come natural for you. It will become a natural thing for you because you are saved. You are born again. These are virtues that come from Almighty God. There will not be an issue for you or as much as an issue for you when you get saved and allow Him to rule and reign in your heart. Love one another. Forgive one another. Do you know what He will do? He will do some great things for you and with you.

When you have these clothes, these garments, these graces on; do you know what will happen? People will be able to see that. They will see who you are. Listen. When their family is in trouble, when they are in trouble; do you know who they want to talk to? They want to talk to somebody that they can see something about God in their life. Amen! They will want to talk to you. They can see who you are—that you are a child of Almighty God, that you have been born again, that you are living different than they are and they will want to talk to you. They will want you to pray for them. They will visit you. They will send you a message. Hey, pray for me. Or, pray for my family. Because they see something different in your life.

When these things are in our life, Jesus will be able to do some great things with us because people can see us. He will open doors for us to be able to do some great things for Him if we will just let these things be our clothing and let the peace of God rule in our heart. God will do some great things for us.

Come and pray—