

## PICKING OUT MY OUTFIT

The time is fast approaching for my daughter and me to go to Toronto to see Adam Lambert and Queen in concert. We bought the tickets when they first came on sale in late March and have been looking forward to this event ever since. When I reminded my daughter that the concert was coming up, she mentioned how she has not planned out her outfit yet. I understand this is a big deal for teenagers when it comes to going to concerts, but it is not for 59-year-old fathers like me. My main concern when choosing an outfit to wear is whether or not it is clean and that it is appropriate for the weather conditions on that day.

Since it is her dad she will be hanging out with at the concert as opposed to a friend, my daughter informed me she was going to pick out my clothes. I told her it was going to be quite a challenge to make this already hip 59-year-old dad look even hipper. On Sunday afternoon she went through my closet and came down the stairs with the shirt I am to wear that night. She chose an old long sleeve shirt of mine that is black with brown stripes. She chose it because she said it would match with what she was planning to wear. I was also informed that I will be wearing either a pair of black or brown pants to the concert to match the top. When Sunday night comes this already hip 59-year-old pastor will look even hipper thanks to my daughter choosing my outfit.

This whole experience with my daughter picking out my clothes for the concert reminded me how God chooses our wardrobe for us at times. The Bible tells us in Genesis 3:21 how God actually designed and made the first clothes worn by Adam and Eve after they sinned in the Garden of Eden. In the New Testament we discover how God was very specific in choosing the outfit that John the Baptist would wear in order to prepare the way for the Lord. God had him wear clothes woven from coarse camel hair with a leather belt around his waist similar to how the prophet Elijah dressed. God's intention for dressing John the Baptist this way was to show his unique and different calling from the religious leaders of those days. The final book of the Bible also tells us how God has chosen the clothes we will wear when we join Him in His eternal kingdom. Details about the outfit are revealed in Revelations 3:5:

**All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and His angels that they are mine.**

God has chosen the colour white for our clothes in His new kingdom to indicate how we will be made pure there and set apart to enjoy being with Him for eternity. This vision of being clothed in white by God one day is meant to encourage us to stand firm in our faith and commitment to Him now as we live each day in a Christ-like way in this fallen world. Envisioning being handed by God one day the pure clothes He has chosen for us should provide us with the motivation each day to resist sin and temptation and do our best to live committed to Him and His righteous ways.

On Sunday night I will be proud to wear the clothes my daughter has picked out for me to go to the concert. They were chosen with love and may result in me looking hip for one night at least. I will be very proud to wear the clothes God has chosen for me in heaven too. That will be another special day to look forward too.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful Thanksgiving. I hope my wardrobe journey this week will help us to pause and thank God for the clothes He has laid out for us in heaven, and the daily help He provides to keep us on His righteous path.

**Keep safe and God bless,**

**Pastor Dean**