

Topic: Grave clothes

Bible Text: John 11:44

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Dear Father, the creator of the universe, you are gracious and honored, Lord we bless your name tonight and hope that you'd give us clear understanding of your word tonight in Jesus name.

It is no longer a new thing to see people and even animals dying around us as adults.l, but the way we have physical death is the same way we have spiritual death. But one thing has never happened or heard of, we organise physical funerals for the dead, but no one is able to arrange a spiritual funeral for a spiritual dead.

Many people are dead spiritually, and it always pains God for someone to die spiritually than physically. That is why he looked for a remedy to bring our spirit back to life - and the remedy is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why we know that even if we have been dead, Christ has brought us back to life. why is it that many people who have been dying in their sins are being brought back to life, yet it feels as if things are not still working well for them, Why?

Why should you be a child of God and you still experience backwardness, is Christ our God backward in any way?, why should you still be experiencing barrenness?, why should you still be failing your exams? But you have been saved raised from the death

of sin to life in Christ Jesus. That is what has led us to tonights topic; **Grave clothes**

John 11:44 KJV

And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

I believe that we are all familiar with the story of Lazarus Jesus' friend, how he died and was buried for four days in a tomb. But here is Lazarus, being called out from the grave, **bound hand and foot with gravelothes** at that point, Lazarus truly resurrected, his spirit obeyed the resurrection voice of God, but here he is, still helpless. He could not even freely do things like others just because he has been bound hand and foot with grave clothes.

We all know what a grave clothe is, it is a clothe that is being used to wrap a dead man, it would therefore look insane to see a man having a grave clothes on walking freely in our streets. Questions would be asked if such is found.

Do you know that just as Lazarus came forth with the grave clothes still on him, that is how it is now, truly many people have been saved, Christ has raised them from the dead spiritually yet they still have grave clothes on. They keep on holding on to these grave clothes that keeps on giving them an identity among the dead. If you read further in that same verse John 11:44b **...Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.**

Jesus said, **loose him** Jesus has raised him, don't you imagine that why didn't Jesus Christ loose, why did He give the command of loosing him to the people there?

It is because whenever a person gets born again or rededicates his life back to Christ. Those who are alive(Christians) around that person has a lot to do in other to see that that person get his full freedom in Christ and not just remain or continue in his grave clothes. Grave clothes causes limitations, it causes stagnancy, it makes one helpless in the spiritual realm. Do you know that many people even in the church are still putting on grave clothes even after being saved, but it is a pity that those who are suppose to loose them(help them) are the ones mocking them.

There is power in the blood of Jesus Christ to save to the uttermost, when you got born again, the Lord has purchased you and paid it all on your behalf, you are no longer guilty of your past ways (all past mistakes) but at the same time there are somethings that would not change in your life at once but gradually, as you keep on yielding yourself to bible meditation, fasting and prayers they would be surfacing for you to deal with. But if these things are been left unattended to by you nor checked for quick corrections, they bind you and keep you under bondage these are what is referred to as graveclothes which makes one to stink before God even after salvation.

Because a sister committed the sin of fornication which is her own grave clothes, in stead of you to loose her even after she has been disciplined by the church for her mistake, you started avoiding her like plague, wait! is that how things should be,

remember that it was by grace that you were saved too.

After salvation, it is important that you begin to check your life if you still have unrepented sins which are your grave clothes. So as to remove them. Because grave clothes can be stinking most times, especially when we have been in it for a long time, these come in form of besetting sins, the sins you have found so hard to stop, they have now started making you stink badly before your maker. Take that grave clothes from your body now, stop smelling to God.

If God should open our eyes to see people who still have grave clothes on even inside the church these days, you would discover that in some churches, everyone there is till spiritually helpless even right from the pastors, the pastors who do not preach the true gospel are examples. Many of these pastors are putting on the grave clothes of the love of money, lust, many of them are liars and deceivers. The church members who are fortunate to hear the gospel truth from somewhere else or from an invited minister is being brought back to life, and Christ is now saying **loose him and let him go** please who would loose him?, is it those who are still even dead and have not resurrected yet that would loose him?

That is why we must locate a **living church** to worship God, so that others can assist us to remove the grave clothes that we might find hard to remove. It can be through constant correction in love, through prayers, through godly advice and others. But when a church is dead and all those in the place have grave clothes on, you know that everyone who joins them would sure get to be like them. Who is the Lord telling tonight to remove that grave clothe of anger? You have been raised from the dead(your old life) it is time to clear your conscience of every known sins. Deal with anger, don't let it deal with you.

Many still go about with the grave clothes of bitterness, hatred, malice, disobedience, and the likes, and Christians around them have been trying to help them but they themselves are not ready to pull the clothes off. Brother/sister do you know that that grave clothes associate you with the dead(unbelievers) and is there any relationship between the living and the dead? Of course none!, but why do you still keep on identifying your self with them with the grave clothes you have on you?

Your pastor have been warning you for long against this act of backbiting but you keep on turning deaf ears, why do love to be associated with the dead? Many keep on having things in common with unbelievers around them, it is the style of indecent clothe put on by a spiritually dead fellow that they would also go and sew, what a pity. - grave clothes of indecent dressing. Some keep drinking everyday saying Jesus turned water to wine that the wine was alcoholic, I wonder if where **give strong drink to him who is ready to perish** is not written in their own bible.

Many are even glad in that spiritual state of the dead, they do not mind spiritual things any longer, they do not even care to make corrections removing the grave clothes of serious disobedience to God words from their lives. They have forgotten that that their

spiritual state can only lead to eternal damnation. No matter how a grave clothe(sin) can look good on you, it does not change the fact that it is still a grave clothe. If you like use a grave clothe to sew suit or Agbada just as many are already doing in this generation. By calling stealing "took". Saying "you are mad o" as compliments, it is still grave clothe.

They do not know that all these make them stink before God. They keep on looking at the beauty they have derived in their stinking grave clothes . it is time to take off every grave clothes that you have been putting on. You have allowed lust in your heart so much that it has caused you to start masturbating in your closet. It is a pity that the Lord is telling you tonight to loose it, and if you cannot, seek help from those who are still very much alive and strong among the brethren, you are feeling shy. You do not want them to start looking at you as a sinner. So is it until when Christ comes and you are not raptured then you'd throw your shyness away when it is too late?

By then I tell you, even all those things you are doing in the secret and hiding now will later be revealed for the whole world to see. Worldly music and movies have sewn skirt and blouse with a graveclothe material for you, yet you keep on dancing in it. Kai, who did this to you? You no longer look different from the dead(unbelievers) all around you because of these grave clothes that are on you. All your friends are unbelievers, and you expect not to die and be like them spiritually. Evil communication corrupts good manners is what the bible says.

Please it is time to start removing those stinking properties of the devil from your life, if you wish to be free. Anyone you find hard to drop seek for help now before it is too late, and the ones you can avoid, avoid them, If you keep on fornicating, break the ungodly friendship/relationship now before it breaks you. Christ is surely coming back, and no one who has anything associated with sin and the devil would reign with Him

As I round up for tonight

If you are currently dead spiritually, I encourage you to quickly locate the place of the cross as there is still sufficient grace now, you can make things right, those sins in your life that has separated you from your God would only cause serious restrictions, helplessness, bondage for you. Christ gives freedom. Resolute tonight to change your ways and make things right with God.

God bless you as you do so.

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