

January 03 / Sunday

**New Clothes**

Read [Genesis 8 & 9](#) / [Luke 8:27-39](#) / [Colossians 3:12-14](#)



**04 / Mon – New clothes for a new year** | Read [Colossians 3:12](#)

Clothes are frequent gifts under the Christmas tree each year. It's fun to begin a new year with new wardrobe items. It coincides with the theme of new beginnings and fresh starts. Did you know that God is concerned with the kind of clothes you wear? Paul tells the Colossian Christians what God wants his people to 'wear'. Which of these qualities come more naturally to you? Which are most challenging to exhibit? And how *do* you 'put on' something like that anyway?

**05 / Tue – Replace this with that** | Read [Ephesians 4:17-32](#)

This theme of putting on something new also comes up in Paul's letter to the Ephesian Christians. In describing the new self they were to put on, he contrasts it to the way they used to live. Notice that the change did not start with new behaviors but it started with a new attitude in their minds as they learned to know Christ better (v. 20-24). As a result, their actions would be different. Are there changes in the list (v. 25-32) that you might want to make in this new year?

**06 / Wed – The enabling truth** | Read [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#)

New clothes don't always feel comfortable at first. Do some of the changes you looked at yesterday seem daunting? They would be except for this truth - it is in Jesus that you can become righteous. Don't let that word *righteous* intimidate you. It simply means living in a way that is honorable and morally right. That is the way Jesus lived his whole life on earth. It is the way he wants to help you live as well. It is a life of continual surrender, choosing what is right over what is easy.

**07 / Thu – A specific description** | Read [Colossians 3:12-14](#) / [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#)

Go back to Monday's scripture and read further. See how all of these are held together by the coat of love. Read Paul's words about what love is and what love is *not*. Love is patient, kind, envious (NOT), boastful (NOT), proud (NOT), dishonors others (NOT), self-seeking (NOT), easily angered (NOT), keeps track of offenses (NOT), delights in evil (NOT), rejoices when truth prevails, always protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres. How might this description help you improve your *love* life?

**08 / Fri – The first thing he did...** | Read [Luke 8:27-39](#)

Jesus encountered a man whose life and mind were so scrambled that he no longer lived like a human being. What was the first thing that happened after Jesus healed his mind? Those new clothes were a symbol to everyone who saw him that he was a changed man, changed from the inside out. In what outward ways are you different than this time last year? Do your new 'clothes' show how Jesus has healed broken places in *your* life?

**09 / Sat – Resolutions that stick** | Read [John 14:10-14](#) and [15:7-8](#)

About a week ago, we turned the calendar to the first day of a new year. It is a time when people often reflect back on the past 12 months and decide to make changes going forward. Would this be a good time to have a conversation with the Lord about where you want to grow? You can have a fresh start right now. Any resolution you make will be possible to keep when you live in the promise Jesus gives you in John 15.