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† He Provides the Covering! †

I was always giggly nervous as a little kid when I saw pictures of Adam & Eve. Before the fall into sin, they were naked with strategically placed vines and branches covering them.

After the fall, our first parents are always wearing matching fig leaf bathing suits! One fig leaf for Adam and three leaves for Eve's 2-piece greenery bikini.

After their sewing project was done Genesis 3:8 -10 picks up the story:

*"And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden . . .
'Where are you?'*

*And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid,
because I was naked, and I hid myself."*

I've always found it funny – they just finished the work of making these leafy clothes; they hear the Lord; they are filled with fear; oops, I'm still naked!

I saw the conversation going like this:

*"What do you mean you are still naked?
You're not naked,
you've got those snazzy suits!
Great job with the needle and thread!"*

Of course, God doesn't say that! He too sees them as naked and says in vs. 22:

"And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them."

Don't miss the awesome Good News in this verse! This is so cool!!

The Lord God's clothing of Adam & Eve sends a message to you, to me, to all (their offspring!) -- of eternal significance.

*The things you do with your own hands
to cover your nakedness and shame --
God doesn't receive as an acceptable covering.
Unless He clothes you – you are naked!
He will provide a covering for you!*

Quick trivia question: What is the first death recorded in the Bible? You probably answer: *Abel*. WRONG!

The first death recorded in the Bible is when God killed an animal to cover Adam & Eve's nakedness! That day an innocent animal died so that the guilty Adam & Eve would NOT die!

That pattern was repeated throughout the Old Testament. Thousands and thousands of animals dying to cover the nakedness and shame of God's people.

Always covering sin – never removing it.

UNTIL ONE DAY John the Baptist sees Jesus and recognizes Him for who He is and says :

*"Behold, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world."*

We are always concocting some work of our own hands that we foolishly think will get us on God's good side. Like my dreaming of a cheap toupee, we are constantly checking our fig leaves in the mirror – hoping their inadequacy won't be noticed!

You don't need a bigger or better set of fig leaves! On the cross, the Lamb of God truly did take away your sin! He was stripped naked so that you can be clothed in His royal robe of righteousness! Amen!

The peace of the Lord be with you!

Pastor Bert

