

New Creation Christian Fellowship
Women's Bible Study
April 29, 2014
Rev. Dr. Claudette A. Copeland, Facilitator

Theme: "COVERED!" Psalm 91

[She] who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust... He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge. His faithfulness will be your shield and your rampart... (verses 1,2,4 NIV)

Lesson Aim - "Trust"

INTRODUCTION

Women value independence. We value the rights we have won in the modern age to make decisions about our own lives. We teach our daughters to be able to make their own way; have their own money, their own jobs and benefits...because we now know the *knights in shining armor* are ...umm... few and far between. Already taken. Emotionally unavailable. Locked up. Gay. Bad credit. Unemployable. Or just poorly taught about how to take care of (cover) a family. And then add to that the *poor parenting* that many of us grown women have received. Many had mothers who were too busy. Fathers who were absent. Abuse, neglect and worse.

Life teaches women....Grow up fast. Take care of yourself. Trust no one. Handle it. You are on your own! And it often creates brittle, hard, unyielding women. Independent spirits and skeptical hearts.

Yet the Christian life gives us a glimpse of a different model.

It's an ancient but still relevant truth. Psalm 91 teaches that there is a ***mighty, living God*** who watches over His own! **It is the state of being COVERED.** Not smothered. Not owned. Not stifled or made to feel stupid or small. *But COVERED.* Protected. Guaranteed. Taken care of. Free to rest; repose and find a safe home in God – in spite of people, enemies or outward opposition.

OPENING EXERCISE

"Write all the things we use to cover us in daily life. With each 'thing' describe WHY we need that covering."

THE LESSON

1.) The FIRST COVER UP

Genesis 3:1-10 "... they realized they were naked so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves (v7.)

Sin makes us ashamed before God and others. Even a small child has an innate sense of when they have done wrong, and they respond in certain way.

- A.) What is the Nature of a (FIG) Leaf when plucked from the bush?
- B.) Name some things/ actions/ attitudes the **natural man** uses (our own fig leaves) to cover up our sins, errors, failures and mistakes.
- C.) What of the person who **cannot feel shame**, remorse or admit their guilt over wrong doing? Is there any hope of redemption for them? Why or why not? See **Romans 1:28-32**

2.) An Intermediate Plan "FIRST COVER" - A picture of a promise

Genesis 3:21 "The Lord made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and **clothed** them..."

- A.) **People** cover us to keep us from doing things that bring shame in the long run. Name them.
- B.) **Punishments** are devised. How do 'punishments' serve society?
- C.) **Provision** is made in SPIRITUAL LIFE to show God's mercy, and to delay judgment while we are in our "butt-naked-ignorance". The Laws of Moses. The Prophets. God provided skins...
An animal had to die. Blood had to be shed to provide "covering".

In the fullness of time Christ would offer himself, shed his own blood, become the "Lamb slain" once and for all time, to cover our nakedness and our sin eternally. (**Hebrews 9: 11-16**)

3.) Our Free COVERAGE NOW

In the recent Affordable Care Act (ACT) initiated by President Obama, there were certain specifications. They parallel some of our spiritual promises.

- A.) **You** have to apply. (**Matthew 11:28ff**)
- B.) There is a **limited time** to get covered, or there will be a penalty (fine). (**Matthew 25:1-13**)
- C.) **Pre-existing conditions** do not disqualify you. (**Luke 13:11-17; Matthew 20: 30-34**)
- D.) Someone **GREATER than you has paid** for the COVERAGE you cannot pay.
- E.) **Future** is not to be feared! **Ps 91:3-4.**

Trouble WILL COME. But ... "Surely he SHALL DELIVER... He SHALL COVER!"