"Girt about the paps with a golden girdle" Rev 1:13

He is a priest girded with the girdle of the ephod.

He has not ceased to fulfill His offices of love for us...He ever lives to make intercession for us...Safe enough is our cause in the hands of our enthroned Melchisedek.

Spurgeon "Morning and Evening" Dec 6

Meditation

Jesus, I have never seen you with my physical eyes, but I do see you with eyes of faith. I can sing "What a friend I have in Jesus...all my griefs and sins to bear." You tell me, "Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens...Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb 4:14-16) You promise me, "...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father" (1Jn 2:1). Even from Glory you are serving us night and day!

You lead me and call me, together with fellow Christians, to "gird ourselves up," and serve those around us—just as you did when you were here. Can we be faithful in that until you come for us?

Whatever it may cost?



1Th 1:9-10 ... you turned to God from idols to Serve a living and true God, and to Wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Prov 16:32 He who is slow to anger

is better than the mighty,
and he who rules his spirit,

[is better]than he who captures a city.

Prov 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap,
but every decision of the lot is from the LORD.

WISDOM: We do not have to be anxious about "making the wrong choice" if we choose to OBEY and then put the details in God's hands.

Two Churches are Total Victors: "Death and Danger" Two Churches are Total Failures: "Dead and Safe"

- Ephesus—Good Works, Perseverance and Doctrine: Commendable!
 BUT—You have left ME: Fail! "Repent—or lose your lampstand"
- 2. **Smyrna**—Tribulation and Poverty and Martyrdom: **Commendable!**
- 3. <u>Pergamum</u>—You Hold My Name, My Faith in Persecution: <u>Commendable!</u> You Hold false doctrines leading to Idolatry and Immorality: *Fail!!* "Repent"
- 4. <u>Thyatira</u>—Works, Love, Faith and Perseverance: <u>Commendable!</u>
 You have a Jezebel leading people into Immorality and Idolatry: <u>Fail!!</u>
 "They MUST Repent or I will throw them (with her) into Great Tribulation"
- 5. <u>Sardis</u>—You are DEAD: *Fail!!* "Repent—strengthen what (little) remains"
- 6. Philadelphia—Good Works! Kept My Name, My Word with Perseverance: COMMENDABLE! I have kept an OPEN DOOR for you to GO OUT!
- 7. <u>Laodicea</u>—*Every* Resource: cold and hot water, health, wealth, power— But they want to stay *neutral* (lukewarm): safe, rich, with a *CLOSED DOOR— BIG FAIL!* "I will spit (vomit) you **OUT!**"

("If anyone in there repents, I am out here—knocking! I will come in to you")

