INTRODUCTION

"As the elect of God, holy and beloved" - we have been so blessed by God; so ...

"Put on" - the following is a heavenly dress-code; 4-piece ensemble; designer is God.

1. (v12-14) "PUT ON" "EVEN AS CHRIST"

"Tender mercies" - (KJV "bowels of mercy") (NIV "clothe yourselves with compassion") Its roots are in God's mercy toward us: (Ephesians 4:32) "But God,

who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us ... "

"Kindness" - (Ephesians 4:32) "And be kind to one another, tender-hearted ... "
"Humility" - (Eph. 4:2); (1 Peter 5:5-6) "... and be clothed with humility ... "

"Meekness" - your incredible strength is under control; a tamed animal.

John Wooden said, "It takes strength inside to be gentle on the outside."

"Long-suffering, bearing with one another" - some things just take time.

Put this on now, practice it, because there's nothing in heaven to trouble us.

"Forgiving one another" - and Paul reminds us of the forgiveness we received from above.

"Above all these things put on love" - add the thread of love in all the garments.

Omit the attitude of "Do I have to?"

2. (v15) "PUT ON" "THE PEACE OF GOD"

"And let the peace of God" - it's the "peace" that Jesus promised: (John 14:27), and He said it is "not as the world gives." There's a spiritual contentment to wear.

"Rule in your hearts" - a heavenly authority to guide us; contentment with confidence.

(Titus 1:2) "in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised ..."

"And be thankful" - (Psalm 107:1 and 136:1)

3. (v16) "PUT ON" "THE WORD OF CHRIST"

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" - in abundance; let it overflow; treasure it.

"In psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing ... " - the value of hymns.

"Teaching and admonishing one another" - look around!

Biblical hymns instruct, encourage us to do right, and consider one another.

"Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" - look up!
(Psalms 66:4, 68:32, 104:33, 105:2-3)

4. (v17) "PUT ON" "THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS"

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" Can you recommend your religion (life and worship) by the Scriptures?

"Giving thanks" - 6 references in the letter: 1:3 and v12; 2:7; 3:15 and v17; 4:2)