

You As a Child of God

Commentary for August 15, 2017 — ... And All Children of God

Why study Scripture — ever? There is a purpose, a reason, in doing so and God tells us that purpose. The apostle Paul tells us the reasons the written Word of God is useful at this time in history, and those reasons apply to us today as we approach the end of the age:

“... since, surely, Him you hear, and by Him [you] were taught (according as the truth is in Jesus) [in the Scriptures], to put off from you, as regards your former behavior, the old humanity which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires, yet [1] to be rejuvenated in the spirit of your mind, and [2] to put on the new humanity which, in accord with God, is being created [in you] in righteousness and benignity of the truth.”

• *Ephesians 4:21–24, Concordant Literal Version (CLV)*

We As Children of God, You As a Child of God

We are truly children of God, young children. If you are a believer, you are a child of God at this moment. God looks upon us and describes us as babes as the apostle Peter wrote:

“Putting off, then, all malice and all guile and hypocrisies and envies and all vilifications, as recently born babes, long for the unadulterated milk of the word [why?] that by it you may be growing into salvation, ...”

• *1 Peter 2:1–2, CLV*

Not all believers were **“growing into salvation,”** nor are many at our present time **“growing into salvation.”** Indeed, the apostle Paul was critical of the many in the *ekklesia* at Corinth who were not growing in Christ:

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual, but as to fleshy, as to minors [babes, KJV] in Christ. Milk I give you to drink, not solid food, for not as yet were you able. Nay, still, not even now are you able, ...”

• *1 Corinthians 3:1–2, CLV*

Paul even said to his audience in the sermon to the Hebrews that they were **“dull of hearing”** and should have known already what he wanted to teach them (Hebrews 4:11). He was saddened to learn they held beliefs that were not just immature, but seriously in error, that he needed to repeat basic teachings to them:

“For when also, because of the time, you ought to be teachers, you have need again of one to teach you what are the rudimentary elements of the oracles of God, and you have come to have need of milk, and not of solid nourishment.

For everyone who is partaking of milk is untried in the word of righteousness, for he is a minor [a babe]. Now solid nourishment is for the mature, who, because of habit, have faculties exercised for discriminating between the ideal and the evil.”

• *Hebrews 5:12–14, CLV*

How Are We to Live as Children of God?

We should learn to discriminate as Paul wrote. He tells us in Ephesians how we should live:

“... yet become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, dealing graciously among yourselves, according as God also, in Christ [Messiah], deals graciously with you. Become, then, imitators of God, as beloved children, and be walking in love, according as Christ [the Messiah] also loves you, and gives Himself up for us, an approach present and a sacrifice to God, for a fragrant odor.”

• *Ephesians 4:31–5:1, CLV*

Who truly does the work? God the Father and Christ do the work through you for the benefit of all people you relate to in your life:

“... for it is God Who is operating in you to will as well as to work for the sake of His delight. All be doing without murmurings and reasonings, that you may become blameless and artless, children of God, flawless, in the midst of a generation crooked and perverse among whom you are appearing as luminaries in the world, ...”

• *Philippians 2:13–15, CLV*

Paul wrote about his relationship to the *ekklesia* at Thessalonica:

“But we became gentle in your midst, as if a nurse should be cherishing her own children. ...

... even as you are aware how we were to each one of you, as a father to his own children, consoling and comforting you and attesting unto you to be walking worthily of God, Who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

• *1 Thessalonians 2:7, 11, CLV*

How Paul and his associates dealt with the *ekklesia* at Thessalonica was a pale example of how God deals with us:

¹⁵For you did not get slavery’s spirit to fear again, but you got the spirit of sonship, in which we are crying, ‘Abba, Father!’

¹⁶The spirit itself is testifying together with our spirit that we are children of God. ¹⁷Yet if children, [then] enjoyers also of an allotment, enjoyers, indeed, of an allotment from God, yet joint enjoyers of Christ’s allotment, if so be that we are suffering together, that we should be glorified together also.

¹⁸For I am reckoning that the sufferings of the current era do not deserve the glory about to be revealed for us. ¹⁹For the premonition of the creation is awaiting the unveiling [revelation] of the sons of God.

²⁰For to vanity was the creation subjected, not voluntarily, but because of Him Who subjects it, in expectation ²¹that the creation itself, also, shall be freed from the slavery of corruption into the glorious freedom of the children of God.”

• *Romans 8:15–21, CLV*

Examine this passage with precision. We received “the spirit of sonship” [God’s Spirit] which designates us to be “the children of God” who will enjoy “an allotment from God,” even to be “joint enjoyers of Christ’s allotment.” It is not just you, me, and other believers, but all “creation is awaiting the unveiling [the revelation] of the sons of God.” This means you and

all the other saints. We will experience **“the glorious freedom of the children of God.”** This is what God has in store for you and for me. Then He will complete the salvation of the world.

Read these passages in your favorite translation, even the King James Version. You will read those familiar passages with new understanding and insight. Think about and study the individual words and phrases. My hope is that the text will “open up” your comprehension.

With great expectation of your future as a glorified child of God, here is how you should live:

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with him in glory.”

• *Colossians 3:2–4*

“Wherefore, girding up the loins of your comprehension, being sober, expect perfectly the grace which is being brought to you at the unveiling [revelation] of Jesus Christ.

As obedient children, not configuring to the former desires, in your ignorance, but, according as He Who calls you is holy, you also become holy in all behavior, because it is written that, ‘Holy shall you be, for I am holy’ [quoting Leviticus 11:44 and 19:2].”

• *1 Peter 1:13–16, CLV*

For you to be holy means to set yourself for a sacred purpose that will honor God. Your everyday actions of life now become holy to God (verse 15 above). Before you believed (and that belief was a gift from God) your actions could never please God. Now that you have God’s Spirit within you, you yourself are holy; God sets you apart so you can bless others with your everyday actions. God does not require you to do great deeds, perform miracles, or speak compelling words.¹

So, if you wonder what your task should be in life, reread the passages above that I am sure you have read before, and then go do (with God’s help all things are possible) what the apostle John says to do: purify yourself to be like Christ is now. This is difficult for children to do, and we will never measure up, but those with elder brothers often strive to emulate them. Christ is our elder brother, emulate Him.

“Perceive what manner of love the Father has given us, that we may be called children of God! And we are! Therefore the world does not know us, for it did not know Him.

Beloved, now are we children of God, and it was not as yet manifested what we shall be. We are aware that, if He [Christ] should be manifested, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him according as He is. And everyone who has this expectation in Him is purifying himself, according as He [Christ] is pure.”

• *1 John 3:1–3, CLV*

What God Is Doing With You at Present

At present God is training you and me to live spiritual lives before He gives us unimagined

¹ If the opportunity arises, God may bless your faith in Him, faith that can move mountains (Matthew 17:19–20, 21:19–21), as well as hearts and minds of His other children, present and future.

power to create.² He is doing with you what He says we should do with our own children.

“Train up a youth in accordance with his proper way; Even [so that] when he is old he shall not withdraw from it.”

• *Proverbs 22:6*

Dr. Martin said in the past, “God is in the creation business.”³ You are an important part of that creation. In fact, in a sense, you personally are the object of all creation. All creation was designed in preparation for your eventual manifestation as a child of God. Note my words to an introduction to a 2009 article:

“You are the object of creation. So is every other son and daughter of Adam. Each of us is a child of God created in His image. You continue to live because God wills it to be so — moment to moment, heartbeat by heartbeat, breath upon breath.

At some time in the future your life will end, your heart will take its last beat, your breath will cease, you will lose consciousness, and you shall die. Your body will begin its decomposition to dust, your spirit returns to God, and your soul ceases to exist until you are resurrected.

If you believed that Jesus was resurrected from the dead and that He is your Savior, then your next conscious moment, your next conscious realization, will be amazing. If you hold fast to your profession of faith (Hebrews 10:23), then this is your future.”

• *David Sielaff, “[Your Resurrection](#)”*

Yes, God gave His only begotten Son to save the world (John 3:16-17). You are part of the world. Therefore, Jesus, God’s Son, was given to die for YOU, just as He was given to die for the rest of the world. He was given by His Father to save YOU, just as He will save the world. That salvation of YOU and the world has already been accomplished.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who blesses us with every spiritual blessing among the celestials, in Christ, according as He chooses us in Him before the disruption [foundation] of the world, we to be holy and flawless in His sight, in love designating us beforehand for the place of a son for Him through Christ Jesus; in accord with the delight of His will.”

• *Ephesians 1:3–5, CLV*

Yes, each of us was designated before we were even born to have a **“place of a son,”** to be a child of God, male or female. That designation took place before the foundation of the world. All this information is an example of why we should study the Scriptures.

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² Most of the world is not experiencing that training yet. Their time will come later in the Great White Throne judgment, designed to educate (and judge) those who have not known Christ, or rejected the Gospel of Christ’s salvation of all children of Adam. God will redeem them also. For us believers, remember, life is often not fair, even for the greatest of “saints.” Read [“The Travail of Everyday Life.”](#) God has things to teach us, and those lessons are often not pleasant.

³ In the physical realm, God continues to create, even at the present moment. See [“Creation Old and New”](#) and Dr. Ernest Martin’s, [“Creation of Life in Contemporary Times.”](#)