

Psm. 11:3

Baptists For Liberty

Prov. 29:2

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Gal. 5:1

NEWS LETTER

Issue # 7

May/June 2013

Monthly Verse: *"Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God"* - Deuteronomy 12:28

"Church Family"



by Bro. Steve McCool

"O magnify the name of the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Psalm 34:3

As children of the Most High God and our Heavenly Father we are family. We often times forget this fact. Our Lord instructed us to come together and worship Him. Yet many of us tend to find other things to do on Sunday rather than go to God's house and worship Him with members of our spiritual family.

Hebrews 10:25 *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the approaching."*

Often times we will let our earthly wants get in the way of our spiritual needs. We forget our church family needs us just as much as our earthly family. Most of us find it difficult to set aside a few hours a week for our heavenly family. Part of our worshiping together as children of God is being in one place, fellowshiping with each other and praising God as a family.

When one of that family is not there the family becomes unbalanced. Notice how the music is different when someone is out sick for a service or how you miss seeing someone that service they are out. The Lord commanded us "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." That means that we should be in the Lord's house at the appointed time on the appointed day unless we cannot physically get there or have a communicable disease that would be easily spread to others.

Let us all remember that we are here to do the Lord's work and not our own. We should strive everyday to do the Lord's bidding and be a witness

of Him to those around us. Part of that witness is being with the Lord's children on the Lord's day worshipping our Lord.

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Sermon: “God’s House”



by Bro. Timothy Works

Psalms 132:1-18

“Lord, remember David, and all his afflictions: How he swore unto the Lord, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob; Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, Until I find out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob. Lo, we heard of it at Ephratah: we found it in the fields of the wood. We will go into his tabernacles: we will worship at his footstool. Arise, O Lord, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy. For thy servant David's sake turn not away the face of thine anointed. The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne. If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore. For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy. There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed. His enemies will I clothe with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.”

The theme of “God’s House,” both Old and New Testament, is a theme I love to study and to teach. Notice David’s zeal & desire toward God’s House is verses 3-5, *“Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, Until I find out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.”*

That theme (God’s House) dominates this Psalm.

Verses 1-9 Speaks of God’s House, verses 10-18 speaks of God’s throne (David’s seed- Christ)

David & Solomon are types, Christ the object & fulfillment of that type, both as to God’s House (Zion –Church) and establishing an everlasting kingdom (throne.)

See how these two thoughts – God’s House & Throne – are connected? David’s desire to build a house (habitation) for God and God raising David up to give him the throne & reign over Israel.

Verse 9 *“Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.”*

Notice: Priests (God’s House) & Saints (God’s Throne)

Proverbs 14:34 *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”*

Proverbs 29:2 *“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”*

Righteousness & Joy are also connected.

Like an onion, there are many layers of truth/teaching, many may study the historical facts of David’s life & reign but miss the many deep spiritual thoughts contained in these verses that pertain to us today. With this theme in mind (God’s House) let us notice these Old Testament /New Testament parallels:

Text verse 7 *“We will go into his tabernacles: we will worship at his footstool.”*

1 Chronicles 28:2-8 *“Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building: But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood. Howbeit the Lord God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel for ever: for he hath chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he liked me to make me king over all Israel: And of all my sons, (for the Lord hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. Moreover I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgments, as at this day. Now therefore in the sight of all Israel the congregation of the Lord, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the Lord your God: that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you for ever.”*

Psalms 99:5 *“Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.”*

Isaiah 66:1 *“Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?”*

The “footstool” therefore is a reference to the place and worship ordained by God which is upon earth. O.T. Tabernacle/Temple – N.T. Church. Isaiah speaks of the corruption of worship- we must be careful how we approach God in worship in His house: (Church)

1 Timothy 3:15 *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”*

Ephesians 2:19-22 *“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”*

1 Peter 2:5 *“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”* (Spiritual house/ Holy Priesthood)

Revelations 5:10 *“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”*

Revelations 19:7-9 *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”* (Remember our text verse Psalms 132:9 *“Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.”*)

Hebrews 12:22 *“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,”* (see text verse Psalms 132:13 *“For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.”*)

Revelations 21:1-4, *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”*

21:22-26 *“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.”*

Revelations 22:1-5 *“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.”*

“What Is Wrong In Our Homes Today?”



by Bro. David M. Green

“But I would have you to know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.” (1 Corinthians 11:2)

Many articles have been written on this topic, and many sermons have been preached about it. However, I am going to take an approach to the subject that few have done. It seems that many preachers want to blame the women for trouble in the home and in many cases that is the truth. Yet, as I look around the country, many times the problem is the men.

In our text, we have God's ordained headship. In many articles and sermons, the focus is the woman's rebellion against the man. While it is true that many women have rebelled against their own husbands, it is also true that many men have rebelled against Christ. Perhaps this is the root of the problem. After all, why should we expect the women in the church to follow us if we are not following Christ?!? What kind of an example do we show our wives?

“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” (Genesis 18:19)

The problem in today's homes is that the men will not be leaders. Many of today's men are just plain lazy. They will not lead their families in the things of God like Abraham did in this passage. While some men are just rebellious, others don't understand how to be a good leader. Let's look again in I Corinthians:

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (I Corinthians 11:1)

Even in secular circles, people will tell you that the best leaders are good followers. We as men need to first learn to follow Christ before we can ever expect the women to follow us.

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)

Notice that Joshua was a good leader because he was a good follower. No doubt his family had a great respect for him and followed him because of the example that he gave.

In the conclusion of this short article, remember that this does not excuse the women in their sin. Many women are in fact not in subjection to their husbands. We as men just need to realize that we need to be in subjection to Christ.

“Adoption and Pre-existing Love”

by Bro. Jason Shults

Galatians 4:3-7

“Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

In Mark 9, we see Jesus pick up a little child in His loving arms and use that child as a sermon illustration. He used that little infant as an example of a spiritual truth. Now I hold this little girl in my arms today, intending to do the same. We have an opportunity to use an earthly truth to point to a spiritual truth that is (as hard as it is for me to believe) the spiritual truth is even better.

This Friday we expect this little girl will be legally made part of our family. But you know that we already loved her even before that. We have expected the day when she would be our child. We have been looking forward to it with confident anticipation. We have chosen to place our love on her, care for her, provide for her and give her a permanent place in our family.

Don't you think when Paul in verse 15 speaks of adoption into the family of God he has the same truths in view? That God has chosen to place His love on us. That He has steadfastly planned the day when He would make us His children. That He has determined to give us a permanent place in His family. Isn't that what is in view?

The concept of adoption is certainly one that is found throughout Scripture. We see it occur several places in the Old Testament.

For example, a Hebrew woman named Jochebed – a slave in Egypt – had a baby boy during the time when Pharaoh had decreed all male children be murdered. So Jochebed took the child, placed him in a tiny little boat made of bulrushes, and pushed him into the river. Of course, that baby was found by Pharaoh's daughter, adopted and named Moses.

A girl named Hadassah (also known as Esther) lost her parents. We don't know how they died. But we know that she was adopted by her older cousin Mordecai. The relationship between the two is clearly one of adoption – as described in Esther 2:7 – “And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.”

We also see a kind of adoption in the Gospel story. You know that Joseph was not the father of Jesus, but throughout the Gospels we see Him recognized as Joseph's child. “He is the carpenter's son” the scoffers

would say. For all intents and purposes Joseph was the adoptive father of our Savior.

Yet the truest picture of adoption isn't found in the relationship of a couple of human parents adopting a human child, but in the very creator of the universe adopting a sinful human into His family. It is both a startling and extraordinary truth when we consider it that way.

You know we consider the Gospel message and often think about those wonderful statements of the new birth or being born again. The child of God is one that is brought to new life just like an infant entering the spiritual world for the first time.

However, when we get to verses like these, in Galatians 4 and Romans 8, they are verses about adoption and it is a concept that is absolutely central to the Gospel. Allow me to state the obvious and say, these verses are here because they mean something. God did not have to use adoption as a gospel concept. Certainly natural birth is a good picture of the Gospel. For example,

John 1:12-13

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

That is a statement of birth, and it is one that the New Testament writers could have continued with as imagery for the Gospel if not for the fact that adoption is also such a graceful picture. In His sovereignty and wisdom, the Lord has told us that we are both born and adopted. And I firmly believe it is because both give us such an accurate and overwhelmingly pure image of the work of salvation.

It appears the ideas of a New Birth and Adoption represent two sides of the same event. Both show us becoming the children of God, but the New Birth pictures our coming to spiritual life where we had been dead in sins, it is a new life just like a child being born. Meanwhile, the concept of being adopted into His family also tells us that becoming God's children is not a natural act. It is not what would happen by nature any more than this little girl was born to us in a natural way. She was not. But God uses the picture of adoption to show us unmistakably that He has placed us into His family by choice. He determined to make us His children.

Let's examine a few ways in which natural adoption and spiritual adoption are similar.

Adoption is a sacrificial choice

It will not come as a surprise to anyone who is a parent that parenthood is a demanding business. There is a sacrifice to be made of an individual's finances, freedom and personal desires that are immediately placed on the back burner of life so that the children's best interest is prominent. That is certainly not unique to adoption, but to parenthood in general.

There is a cost to be paid. Your peace of mind is taxed to the limit. Your time is no longer your own. The emotional toll of parenting cannot be understated. And, incidentally, that is something that I recognize does not stop when the children become adults. The emotional and real-life difficulties of adult children can be just as taxing as young children. The price of parenthood comes with more than an 18-year commitment, doesn't it?

When God adopted children into His family, there was also a price to be paid.

Galatians 4:5

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

We are redeemed so that we can receive adoption. Redemption involved “the payment of a price.” We are redeemed so we can be adopted. The picture in the New Testament of this redemption is being purchased at a slave market.

Imagine for a moment if you will that there is a young child born a slave, taken to market to be sold and be captive to the labor of another. Their situation is absolutely hopeless. Wish as you may to take that child as your own, it is owned by another. You cannot adopt that child unless the price of their freedom is first paid. Your compassion and well wishes for that youth are a credit to your character, but active love requires that steps be taken. The price must be paid to free the child from slavery and once that redemption is complete, then adoption can occur.

We are born slaves to our sinful nature. The price demanded for our sin must be paid before our status as a slave can be changed. God did not adopt us without first paying the price required for our ransom. And oh what a price was required for you! Our adoption cost God the life of His Only Begotten Son who laid down His life as the price for our salvation. The debt paid by Christ is far greater than any earthly parent has ever had to bear.

And yet, there is still joy to be found in that pain, isn't there? It would be heartbreaking indeed if I stood before you only mentioning the price of parenthood without ever addressing the wonderful joys to be found there as well! We endure the pain to partake in the joy.

It is a sad truth that those who opt for abortion are generally trying to avoid the perceived costs of parenthood – loss of freedom, loss of careers, loss of time, etc – but what they have really done is sacrificed the joys they never considered. And in exchange they've received the pain of guilt and loss they never expected.

Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus “for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross.” Why did Jesus endure the pain, the humiliation, the agony of the cross? For the joy that was waiting on the other side. God knew the pain. God knew the joy. And He decided to make the sacrifice to redeem us and adopt us.

Adoption truly is a sacrificial choice.

Adoption requires a plan

Not only is it a costly choice, it is a choice that is made according to a plan. Often, in our earthly lives, the choice to adopt is seen as a sort of Plan B. I will freely admit that is how it was with Joy and I. After it became evident that having natural children was unlikely, we looked at the possibility of foster and adoptive parenting.

Now, it is always something we had intended on doing but only after having natural children first. My thought was that we'd have a natural child first, then the adoptive child would know we'd made a conscious choice to adopt not having been forced into it.

This is not the first time my mind has gotten in the way of good thinking. I can be a first-rate idiot sometimes. I am sure you'll all agree that our three little girls represent God's Plan A for us. And we are God's Plan A for them. We absolutely believe that and would never chose anything

differently even if we could. I don't know how to explain it expect to say that the choice might be second in sequence, but it is in no way secondary.

The problem is that we couldn't see the end from the beginning so we didn't know what was best. Folks, God sees the end from the beginning. In our lives, He has shown His wisdom in making those choices for us. But it is also evident that spiritually, in our adoption into God's family, it is the result of a choice that was by God and absolutely Plan A all the way.

Ephesians 1:3-5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

“According to the good pleasure of His will” means the plan is developed based on God's looking out from the foundation of the world, seeing us on that slave market and saying “that is who I want.” Not just “that is someone I'm willing to take” but it was God's earnest desire that He would have me as His child. He has chosen us from the foundation of the world and predestinated us unto adoption. It is Plan A, so much so that there is no other plan. That's the way it has to be. Our adoption into God's family is according to plan.

Adoption rescues the child

We've seen that adoption is a costly choice. We've seen how it is done with a plan in mind. Now let's consider that adoption really is a rescue for the children. It takes children out of a very bad situation.

In our natural lives, there is no end to the number of bad situations in which a child, through no fault of their own, can find themselves. Drugs, physical and sexual abuse, the loss of parents through accidental death – the list is virtually endless.

In adoption it is necessary that parents are willing to take children from bad situations. The most striking truth about adoption, if you've ever considered it, is that there are children who have a profound need to be adopted. They have that need because they are in very bad situations. It should be no surprise then, that spiritually we are adopted because we're in a bad situation without it.

Years ago, when we first told some people about our plans to adopt, I had a couple of folks who are pretty close to me respond negatively. They were worried we would get a bad kid. “Bad blood” is what they called it. They were all for having a natural child, which really made me wonder if they knew me and Joy at all.

In Ephesians 2:3, the Apostle Paul says that “we were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” So, getting a bad kid is sort of the point isn't it? God didn't adopt you because he found some precious cute perfect little bundle of happiness on His doorstep one morning. What did He adopt? He took in rebellious children, hateful children, obnoxious and ugly children. You want to talk about “bad blood,” oh, we've got it!

It is exactly that child that needs to be adopted. It is exactly that child that needs to experience the life of righteousness that is not natural to them. If there isn't a problem, there isn't a need for adoption!

Let me just say as a side note that differences are inherent in adoption as well. The perfect and holy God adopted a sinful child when He took me. It was as if He looked down and picked out an exact opposite.

I've had people wonder – and frankly I've wondered – about our suitability to adopt a kid who doesn't look like us. This little girl looks like us, but not all our children do. We have different ethnicities. In reality, our family is just an insignificant group of depraved sinners. We've got everything in common. It was God who spanned the greatest social and moral gulf when He adopted – when He reached down and rescued – me.

Adoption brings new status

Some things are going to change after Friday for our family. Right now, we have to get permission if we want to go travel; we have to ask before we take the baby to a new doctor; we've found out that – no matter who we ask – right now we aren't allowed to start a savings account her name. Those are all examples of legal issues which are going to be resolved.

She is also legally going to get a new name. That poor child is going to become a Shults. This is a source of pride to me – if not to her yet. This is a change of status. It is a simple thing, but when we fill out forms, we're going to be very happy when they ask “relationship” that we can just put “parent” and not “foster parent.”

The same is true about our spiritual adoption. There has been a great change of status. Look at:

Galatians 4:4-6

4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

It may seem like a small thing, but in God's eyes we are adopted long before we experience that moment of salvation. Remember, that choice was made before the world began, the plan was instituted long ago, Jesus has already paid the price required for the redemption and adoption. Essentially God saw us as children long before we saw Him as our Father.

Isn't that what Paul is saying here in verse 6? “Because you are sons” God sent His Spirit to make us recognize Him as Father. Not “God sent the Spirit so you would be sons.” He already saw us that way. He loved us. He chose us. He paid the price. He adopted us. In God's eyes the status has already changed, but He sends the Spirit so that we see that new status as well.

That makes sense, doesn't it? Do you think when the judge bangs the gavel on Friday that suddenly the eyes of Joy and I are going to be opened and we'll see our little girl differently than we already do? Of course not! That love and care has existed in our minds for too long already.

Now the one thing I can't say is what happens in her mind. She is probably too young to know any difference at all. God has given us a great blessing in that respect. Her connection with us is going to be based on the love and bond that we share. It just isn't conceivable that our three children grow up thinking of themselves as orphans until the day we show them adoption papers and they suddenly deduce, “Oh, I guess

you're my Father.” No way. There is something within them that will cause them to know it before they can understand it.

If you're saved, isn't that what you experienced? Wasn't there something within you that caused you to know you're a child of God even before you understood all the wonderful truths of how exactly that happened? Well, let's see what that “something” is.

Galatians 4:6

“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”

Romans 8:15-16

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”

The remarkable word here in both those passages is the word “Abba.” It is the Aramaic word meaning “Father.” So essentially, in both Romans and Galatians, Paul says that we cry out “Father, Father” in two different languages.

Most likely, Paul is looking back to the words of Jesus. That word “Abba” is far too familiar of a term to be used by Jews in addressing God. They insisted on the very formal word for “Father.” But Jesus used this informal, casual, relaxed, familiar term in prayer when He addressed God the Father.

I think the understanding is that we aren't given some kind of second-class status as adopted children. Paul says in Romans we are given the “Spirit of adoption” and in Galatians he calls it “the Spirit of his Son” which causes us to cry out emphatically – and we feel and understand that we are entitled to address Him with the same familiarity that Jesus His Son addressed Him. “Abba, Father!”

Paul says we are joint-heirs – legal children – with Christ. If you have a family with natural children and adopted children, the adopted children don't talk any differently than the natural ones. They are all children. They don't know they are children because of a piece of paper, they know they're children because they call you “Daddy” just like the other kids do.

And folks, that is a fantastic change of status. The lost world cannot hope to have that kind of familiarity with our gracious and loving and caring Father. Adoption gives to us that change of status that allows us to recognize Him and approach Him that way.

Conclusion

What does adoption mean? It means God has chosen us. He has planned for us. He has rescued us. He has given us the status of His very Son.

For some reason, it seems much easier for us to look at natural adoption and see the kind of beauty and love that it represents. But it should really cause us to look at the love of God for us. That is why it is continually used as an example of God's love for us.

Think of it like this:

- Were Joy and I under some obligation to adopt our children? No. Neither was God under obligation to adopt us.
- Are we adopting this baby because she is the very best child? I'm going to get myself in trouble here, but obviously not. Our kids are just kids.

They aren't the best or the worst. But God adopted us even though we were the worst.

• Now that we're adopting her, do you think that we'll decide to disown her? Of course not. Neither will God disown us. In fact, it is right in Romans 8 after Paul talks about adoption that he says "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Why? He's adopted us. He chose us. He's paid the price. He made the plan. He has reached down and rescued us and placed us next to His Son and given us the same status as children.

1 John 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."

Labor In Love III

Bro. Fry: My name is John Fry and I live in Kenova, West Virginia. My wife Heather and I have been married 15 years and have two children, Austin age 14 and Sara age 9. I pastor the Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Ceredo, West Virginia for the last five years.

Why did you choose to be a chiropractor?

I began to be interested in chiropractic when I was in the 5th grade. My dad had suffered with headaches for a long time and had gotten relief through chiropractic. When I turned 16 I began to work for a chiropractor doing charting and escorting patients to their rooms. During that same time I also volunteered at a local medical doctors office and the hospital to see which direction I should go. I began to fall in love with the natural approach to health care instead of chasing symptoms with medications.

Do you believe in only natural (holistic) medicine or is there a place for modern medical practices?

I believe that people receive the best care when medical doctors and chiropractors work together for the good of the patient.

Do you ever meet people skeptical of chiropractic?

I still meet people who are pretty skeptical about what I do. The proof though is in the results.

Do you own a privet practice?

When I first graduated from chiropractic school I returned and worked for the doctor that I had worked for as a teenager. I worked with him from 1998-2004. In 2005 I opened my own clinic called Lavalette Chiropractic in Lavalette, West Virginia.

Even though you had worked in a chiropractic office as a teen was there any thing that surprised you when you did become a chiropractor you would have liked to of known before?

I was very informed about chiropractic ahead of time. I wish I would have known more about the cost involved in getting my education.

In what ways do you expect Obamacare to effect you?

The national healthcare initiative has increased our costs to provide patient care. We have had to upgrade computer programs to meet the criteria set forth in the plan. Since our costs have increased we must pass those costs on to patients.

How will Obamacare harm your patients, is there any benefits to them?

The national healthcare plan could be of benefit to those who would

never seek care because they didn't have insurance. For the normal individual who has insurance they will likely see their premium increase because of insurances having to pay more out as well.

Are there any other political issues that effect your practice?

National healthcare laws continue to be a challenge every year. It is constantly changing and getting more expensive to provide services.

How has the LORD used your work to bless others?

I would like to think in two ways. First I honestly believe that any talent I have as a chiropractor to provide relief to those in pain has nothing to do with me, but rather God who gives me that ability. It is nice to see someone who can hardly walk into your office leave walking normal with a smile on their face. Secondly, I get the chance to witness to people all day long. Everyone here knows I am a preacher and they bring their questions with them!

How has He blessed you through it?

I just love the satisfaction knowing that I get to help people physically and spiritually.

Have you ever had patients visit your church? Become church members?

Patients regularly visit our church. Some come over and over again. Some just to say "hi". I have never had a patient though become a member. Maybe someday, but I will leave that in the Lord's hands.

Do you have any advice for any brothers or sisters considering going in to chiropractic or other medical fields?

The best thing to do if you are planning on going into the medical profession is to job shadow and see what the job is really like. You may learn quick you don't like it.

Is there any thing that some one looking for a chiropractor should know?

If I were to look for a chiropractor, I wouldn't look for the one with the biggest office in town, but rather one with a good reputation.

Sis. Mandy: My name is Mandy Thomas. In 2005 I married Phillip Thomas. We have two children, Cecilia and Josiah and we are expecting our second son in June. We currently live in Troy, MO and are members of Independence Baptist Church where Bro. Wayne Reynolds is pastor.

How and why did you start home schooling?

I graduated from Foristell Baptist Academy, a very small church-school that is a ministry of Independence Church in Foristell, Mo. From the time I was a teenager, I knew that I wanted to be involved in a church-school or homeschool if the Lord blessed me with my own family. The Lord blessed me with a husband who had the same vision. Phillip graduated with honors from a public school, but was still very much in favor of homeschooling. Since this was a topic we discussed before we married, it wasn't a decision we made when our daughter turned 5. We already had a basic plan in place. When Cecilia was born we lived in Ohio and later we moved to Illinois. Had the Lord left us in Illinois, we would have homeschooled since there were no church-schools in the area that fit what we were looking for. But by the time our daughter was old enough to go to school the Lord had brought us to Missouri. FBA was still going strong, although it had changed from my school days. Roughly 6 or 7 years after I graduated, the families had decided to homeschool, but still used the ACE curriculum and still did all testing at the school. The year Cecilila started school, FBA underwent yet another change. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, each family works at home but follows a regular schedule of 8:00 to 3:30, with the younger students (pre-k through 2nd level) finishing up around 1:00. Wednesdays and Fridays are church-school

days with all the students working together in the Learning Center. All testing is done on Wednesday & Fridays. We are on our second year of this schedule and it seems to be working out very well.

How did the church school start?

In the late 70's there were three families in our church with school-age children. They were increasing frustrated with the public schools in the area. They began to explore alternatives to the public school system. The pastor of the IBC at that time, also had a secular job. Through a coworker they heard about the A.C.E. school program. A representative from an ACE school in St. Louis came and spoke to the families. They decided to step out and start a school at Independence Baptist Church. In the fall of 1979, six students were enrolled in Forstell Baptist Academy. The staff was (and still is) all volunteer. My mom, Debby Alls, and my grandma, Mary Alls, took the ACE training and were the Supervisors at FBA with many of the other parents (mostly the mothers) taking the Monitor training. Those were scary times with churches in different states facing legal hurdles and stiff opposition as they tried to begin church-schools. FBA was blessed in that they had guidance from ACE schools already in existence regarding the laws in place at the time. FBA has weathered storms and gone through changes over the years, but is still in existence and still uses the ACE program. It is small with the largest enrollment being 15. My graduating class--the class of 1995--was the largest to date. There were three in my graduating class. This year FBA has 11 students ranging in age from 5 to 18.

What kind of state or federal obstacles have you had to face?

Honestly, as of yet, I haven't really had to face any state or federal obstacles. Because I'm involved with a school that has been around for so long, much of the legal footwork has been done for me. We keep up with the state requirements for private/homeschooling and make sure we document the work our students do each year. No one at our school has ever been challenged on the education we provide, but we strive to keep very clear records that will stand the test should that time come. The students take a standardized test every year to document their academic progress as well as the regular testing that goes with the curriculum.

If the government banned church schools and or home schooling what would your family do?

This is an interesting question that I admit I'm still pondering. My husband and I talked about it and still do not have a definitive answer. It seems to me that the challenge would more likely come slowly with more and more government restrictions being put in place rather than a sudden ban. As a general rule, we try to obey the laws of the land unless they go against a clear teaching from Scripture. So as far as we could, we would comply with whatever legal requirements were put in place regarding the education of our children. I pray that we will have wisdom and discernment as well as courage as these things come to pass.

Why do you think the LORD has led your family to choose home and private education?

I think I've basically answered this question in my responses to the other questions. There are so many reasons to educate your own children. For us, the primary reason would be a desire to give our children a solid academic education that is in sync with God's Word. I know many homeschool or pursue private education to keep bad things from their children and while that is a small part of our decision it is in no way the main reason. Bad things can happen to your children anywhere and they will be influenced by this world no matter what. We need to remember that our children are little sinners themselves with a depraved nature. It is the Lord that saves souls, not homeschooling or Christian schools. But I do pray that I can have MORE of an influence over my children by

teaching them myself and by using an academic program that backs up what we are teaching them from God's Word. A Bible verse that is very important to me is Proverbs 21:31 *"The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD."* I remember my parents telling me many times that you can never protect your children from everything. You do the very best you can, but ultimately remember you have to trust the Lord with your children.

Was there any thing you would have liked to have known before home schooling or joining a church school?

Since my daughter is only 6 we are at the beginning of our homeschool journey. I have been blessed with a very knowledgeable support system. As we travel this road, questions have come up but I've had others along the way to help answer those questions. There are challenges involved for me and my family and who knows what lies ahead, but it was the generation before who stepped out in faith and blazed the trail. In the 70's and 80's it was an odd and daring thing to take care of the education of your own children. It was not nearly as socially acceptable as it is today. I thank the Lord for those families (including my own parents) who were willing to step into the unknown. I reap the benefits of their faith.

How has the LORD used your family's education choice to bless others?

I'm not sure that my family has blessed anyone else yet. I feel this way partly because my daughter is so young and we have just begun this part of our journey. Not to sound like a broken record, but it is me & my family that have been blessed by others who have taken the initiative to teach their own children. I pray that we will encourage others to be involved in the education of their children. Most of all, I pray that my own children will see the importance of an education based on God's Word. The ones I would like to influence the most would be my own grandchildren, should the Lord bless me with them someday.

Is your school a gun free zone?

Well, yes and no. Is our school gun-free? Yes, it is. As far as I know, none of the parents or students carry. Do we have a specific rule or law in place to prohibit a legal weapon on the premises? No.

“A Biblical Look At Homeschooling”

By Bro. David M. Green

Introduction

First of all, let me say this I experienced home school but I also experienced public school. Unlike most people, I can honestly say I have been there and done that in regards to both issues of this subject. May the Lord bless us as we study His word!

1. A little bad is still bad.

Recently, I have heard some arguments that the public school system has some good points to it, in spite of the decay in morals we have seen in the past few years. The public school system teaches evolution, immorality, homosexuality (called "alternate lifestyle"), etc.

The Bible teaches that a *"little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."* (1 Corinthians 5:6). God does not have varying degrees of bad in His Word. Bad is bad, and good is good. Period.

2. Homeschooling was God's original design

God's original design was for the children to be taught at home.

"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of

them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth." (Deuteronomy 11:18-21).

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

A parent cannot teach the things of God to his children like the Bible says we are supposed to if they are sent away for several hours a day. It is supposed to be an all day thing!

3. Government has no business of educating children

The Bible teaches a very limited role of government in Romans 13:1-7. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."

Education was never intended to be a part of the government. By the fact that they are public is against God's Word in the first place. That does not even take into account what they teach. The fact the government teaches at all is wrong and rebellious.

4. Homeschooling better prepares children for the world

Like I said at the beginning, I have experienced both home education and public education. Looking back on it, I wish I had never gone through the public school system. Some have claimed that by sending their children into the public school system, they are better prepared for the "real world." I do not need to know what the "real world" is like by experiencing the sin of it. Children of God's people who are in the public school system, most of whom are unsaved do get to see what the "real world" is like and they enjoy every minute of it. They will say curse words, smoke cigarettes, try other drugs, date ungodly people, and other things most parents never know about. I not only experienced some of these things (to my shame), but I also witnessed other children doing similar things who went to church with their parents faithfully every Sunday.

The problem is children should not be put into the "real world" because they are children. They are not disciplined enough to say no to peer pressure. They cannot make correct decisions by themselves. That is why you do not send them out on their own. That is why they still live under your roof.

In the public school system, children are bombarded by errors that are very convincingly taught as fact. They spend almost seven hours in a classroom per day, five days per week. This goes on for nine months out of the year. That means they spend more time learning at the public school system than they spend learning at home or in church. When the kids come home, there is homework to do, plus any extra curricular activities that are done on top of that. And how long is the TV on? What about video games? Very little time is left for instruction, and the sad fact is, the parent not only must teach but also "unlearn" the error that is taught at school.

And evolution is only one part of it. The public school system curriculum is packed full of wickedness and evilness. And we are only talking about what they are learning from their teachers. What of the peers? I can tell you, the kids they play with on the playground are not good examples to learn from!

On the other hand, if you home school them, then you are preparing them for the world. But you are not putting them into it! When a home schooled person has been properly prepared, that young adult will be well-prepared:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6).

That word "train" is a word that means in the original "to initiate or discipline." Homeschooling trains much better than public schooling does. With the public school, your children are available for you to teach a little every evening and on the weekend. But you also have to defend the truth.

With homeschooling, on the other hand, your children are available to you all the time to train. You discipline them in the things of God, and prepare them for the world. When I was home schooled, we learned all about Creation, but we also learned the evils of evolution. We learned about marriage, but we were also taught about the evils of sodomy. Etc. Etc.

Think of it this way. How utterly ridiculous would it be for a king to put untrained soldiers on the battlefield for their training? Why should the anyone criticize his decision to keep them sheltered from the enemy? Nay, but all the time, the soldiers might not be in the enemy's battlefield, but they are being prepared for battle.

An untrained soldier in the world is an unfit soldier indeed. Yet, Paul, when he wrote to the Corinthians said, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." (I Corinthians 13:11)

I graduated from home school prepared for the world. Sure, I had missed out on some things that the world had to offer. But so what? I am a better man because of the education I received. And I'm thankful to the Lord that my Mom realized I needed it.

5. Homeschooled children are better prepared socially "And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?" (Exodus 4:11).

It is amazing that I even need to address this. But, I have been around churches the last 10 years preaching in Baptist pulpits and this and quite a

few of God's people are afraid of home school because of social skills. Well, first off, I do not want my child to learn the social skills of the world! The world does not speak my language, nor do they know the first thing about being Christian.

My social skills were not damaged at all by home school. And any of you who know me will agree with that. In fact, home schooled children are better prepared socially to be among adults than children who are in today's public schools. In the home, they are taught proper Biblical respect. They are taught how to act as adults. How adults expect them to act. Public schools do not adequately do this.

Conclusion

Homeschooling is not for everyone. Some are not able to do it for various reasons, and I respect that. However, this is an option that should be prayerfully considered. If you cannot do it, then look for a good Christian school. I hope this study has been a blessing to all who read. May the Lord bless!

“The Symbolism of Marriage” Parts I & II



by Bro. Todd Bryant

Part I

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” (Ephesians 5:31-32)

Many have never considered the seriousness of marriage. Sadly, our nation places little value on marriage relationships today. But, God takes it seriously.

Outside of the relationship between Christ and the believer, nothing is more wonderful than a healthy marriage. It takes a bit of effort, however, to make a marriage successful. Love is not enough – it takes more. It takes a willingness to do what God has called us to do. To be a faithful spouse, you must be a faithful child of God first.

All that said, what is the purpose of marriage? Most today would say the purpose of marriage is, perhaps, to procreate; or for companionship; or merely for love. But, none of these are correct. The primary purpose of marriage is seen in our text as well as the entire passage. In almost every

sentence, a reference is made to Christ's relationship to His Bride, the church. The primary purpose of marriage is to properly represent this relationship. Have you ever considered this? If you are married, your marriage is supposed to be a symbol of Christ's relationship to His Bride. How does it add up?

The relationship between Christ and His church is founded on grace. It is built on mercy, longsuffering and love. No human marriage can work until both spouses desire to properly represent Jesus and His Bride in their marriage. Marriages must be founded on these same principles. Have you ever wondered why God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16) so bad? Consider the relationship between Christ and His Bride. Will it ever be severed? Absolutely not! The church is the Bride of Christ and will one day soon be married to her Husband (II Corinthians 11:2). When marriages are dissolved through divorce, the symbolism is destroyed. God did not design marriage for divorce (Matthew 19:8).

Today, many people fall out of love. Many believe this is a reason for divorce. But, love is not the primary reason to stay together. Don't misunderstand; marriages should be full of love. That's the ideal way. But, that is not the primary reason to remain married. The chief reason a marriage should not be broken is to maintain the proper symbolism of Christ and His Bride. Does that not, then, make it more important than most today have ever considered?

If you have successful marriage, thank the Lord. If you have never considered the seriousness of marriage, hopefully this short lesson will give you pause. The relationship between a husband and wife should perfectly picture the relationship of Christ and His Bride. Pray that God will enable us all to work together in the grace of God.

Part II

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” (Ephesians 5:31-32)

In our previous lesson, we learned how serious the marriage bond really is. God didn't institute marriage simply so two people in love could covenant to spend their life together. Marriage is much more than that. Marriage is a symbolic covenant. It is a picture of Christ's relationship to His bride, the church. This is the reason God's hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). It destroys the picture of Christ and the church.

Husbands, you picture Christ in the relationship. If you have already learned of the seriousness of getting married, this makes it even more serious. How well are you representing Christ? When your children, friends and family see the way you handle yourself as a husband, do they see a picture of Christ? If not, you have some work to do! Remember, Jesus left all for His bride. He left Heaven's glory to be made a little lower than the angels (Hebrews 2:9). Likewise, a husband must leave all for His bride. As far as earthly relationships are concerned, she is to be first in his life. He must love her as he loves himself (Ephesians 5:28). He must be willing to lay his life down for hers (Ephesians 5:25). When we, as husbands, fail to do these things, we fail to properly represent Christ.

Men, until you are the husband you are supposed to be, your wife cannot be what she is supposed to be.

Wives, you picture the church in the relationship. *“Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything”* (Ephesians 5:24). Surely, Jesus served the disciples in many ways and the husband ought to serve his wife as we have already taught.

However, even when Christ was feeding them; even when He was washing their feet, they never lost sight that He was the Leader. He was their Head. He was the Lord and they were the disciples. Women, the men are to be the leaders in the home. You are to submit to that leadership so you can properly represent the church in the marriage relationship.

Couples, only when you fulfill your individual roles can you properly fulfill your role as a married couple. Husbands if you fail to represent Christ, the symbol is broken. Wives, if you fail to represent the church, the symbol is broken. Your responsibility in marriage is much more serious than most have ever considered. If you have chosen to get married, you are now bound to properly represent the relationship between Christ and His bride.

May we all pause today and consider how serious marriage is. Whether we are married or not, this truth is beneficial to us. To the married, we can now better serve the Lord in our marriage. We can be a better witness to a lost and dying world. To the unmarried, we will not enter in with blinders. We can see how serious marriage is. Knowing that it represents the relationship between Christ and His church, divorce should never be an option. And, it won't be as long as both spouses properly fill their role.

The Forum: *Family Governance*

Question: *We often talk of or hear preached that the family is the building block of society, does that mean secular government ought to mirror the form of government that rules a godly family house hold? What is the proper form of family governance and why?*

Aristocracy/ Oligarchy, Monarchy, Autocracy/Dictatorship, Communist, Democracy, Theocracy or other?

Answer this issue was written by Bro. Michael Prater pastor of Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Roseville, CA.

(www.landmarkroseville.org)

“The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts. To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.” Proverbs 21:1-3

The question posed is truly an interesting one. I believe it is one that colleges and universities have addressed while dismissing the Biblical response. It might be asked, “What is the role of government over families?” It may be further asked, “What does Christianity have anything to do with it?”

Let us begin with the form of governments presented in the question and the Biblical response.

1. All forms of government that presently exist are man made governments. You might reply, “What of Theocracy?” True Theocracy existed in the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth. After the fall of man evil took center stage. A Theocratic Government was supposed to have been practiced with the Children of Israel after they came out of forty years in the wilderness. However, they rebelled against God and demanded a king like all the other nations. Even prior to this, the people did that which was right in their own eyes and not after God's will. [Judges 21:25; I Samuel 8:5] The Bible says that Christ our Lord will establish a true Theocracy during His millennial reign. [Revelation 20:1-6] Therefore that leaves us with all forms of human governments.

2. Human governments whether by multitude of people or single leader have existed throughout history. Some have been antagonistic towards Christians while others received and respected them. The fact is Christianity has existed since the time of our Savior in every country and under every form of government. Where Christianity has been allowed to assist and lead, countries have been blessed and succeeded. When Christianity has been silenced wickedness has prevailed and those countries have suffered.

3. It isn't the influence of the government over the family that determines the good or the success. As a believer of God's Word, the Bible, I find that God does not tell governments how to lead the family but how parents are to lead the family.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:1-4

4. God gave the family the responsibility to raise up children. Even the Ten Commandments given my God tells us to “Honor thy father and thy mother.” This is God's plan. No where do we find God telling kings or leaders to take responsibility to raise up children except for their own. [Deuteronomy 6:6-9]

5. The problem with our own society today is that we have removed godly influence and have replaced it with man made laws and directives. Consider that pastors and churches cannot perform weddings. In reality pastors have to have permission from a government identity to perform a wedding. A church does not issue a divorce. This is done by law and directed by government. Churches and church leaders are required to deal with the issue created by man made laws. The godless actions of leaders have resulted in debacles which churches and church leaders are expected to repair.

There is no form of government qualified to bring up children as God would have them brought up. God gave that job to parents. When we raise godly children in the way God requires we have a nation who will have godly leaders. Remove godly parents and God's way of raising children and you will always have a country full of wickedness. After some study and consideration I believe God's way has always been patriarchal. Consider Deuteronomy 4:9-10 “*Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life; but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.*” Also Joshua gave the answer in this way, Joshua 24:14-15 “*Now therefore fear the Lord; and serve him sincerely and in truth: and put away the gods which thy fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods your fathers served that were, on the other side of the flood, or the land of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*”

God holds man responsible to train up his house. God does not force us to serve him. He requires us to serve. God's people need to submit to the ways of God and train their children to follow Him. The head of the house, man, needs to oversee the children and grandchildren, but always preparing them for the time that they are to leave and begin their own

families. Ephesians 5:31. We are to lead and prepare. Godly patriarchy accomplishes this.

"Wait on the Lord"

by Bro. Steve McCool

Psalm 27:14 *"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."*

In the rush of our everyday lives we often find it difficult to *"wait on the Lord"*. We have been trained by a secular humanistic society to *"take life by the horns and run with it"*.

As Christians, the one area of our lives that seems to suffer the most is our relationship with our Holy Father. The area that should be of most importance to us. Because we have given into the teachings of Humanism we are now seeing our nation, our homes, and our churches fall into the traps of the devil. As Christians we are following after the world and not Heaven. Our Lord warned us in many places in His word to not conform to the world or to live in the world but to not be part of the world.

Our duty here in this life is not to fit in with the crowd, but rather to show those around us the way to our Lord and Savior. Oh how many of us have forgotten our real purpose here in the world. How we have let down our guard and have absorbed the filth and the lust of those who would gladly help with our destruction. All because we will not wait on the Lord for our needs and for the answers to our prayers. How many times have we as Christians prayed and asked God for a financial blessing of some sort whether it be money, a home, or a vehicle, and before He answers we run out and buy a lottery ticket or we borrow money we can not repay without struggling. All this in the name of God when if we would have waited on His answer we could have used it as a witness of His love and grace towards us.

Instead we are now burdened with debt and have planted a seed of doubt with those around us that our God is who we say he is, thereby damaging our witness of the God of Heaven. All because we will not wait on the Lord.

In the churches today we see the same issues. Preachers act as salesmen, trying to make a sale to the lost and the wealthy. For the sake of raising up a great number in the name of Jesus they will play all kinds of tricks and gimmicks and party games to draw in those that will fill the coffers of the church treasury with enough money to pay big salaries, build new and larger sanctuaries, build gymnasiums and sports arenas (rodeo arenas), and to even support political activism. All this because we will not wait on the Lord to provide the increase he has for us.

In the New Testament we do not read of the preachers and pastors of the early churches driving around in the latest model of chariot or the church furnishing these men with a new horse and chariot every few years. No, we read where most of them walked or relied on someone else for transportation. They did not receive large sums of money for their work. Some had to work a secular job to support themselves and their families, some relied on the church and friends for a job and food. Many of the early churches met in the Jewish synagogues on the first day of the week, some met in homes, barns, or out in the open.

Oh how we have become spoiled in our nice comfortable church buildings today. In the time of the early church Roman gymnasiums were used for the training of the athletes who would go and persecute and kill Christians in the sports arenas. Political activism was preached from the

pulpits and not funded monetarily. Because we refuse to wait on the Lord we have now become a nation who refuses to pray or to even allow prayer. We have begun to remove God and Jesus from all public functions and have denied the very existence of our Father and His Son by allowing humanism and atheism to over run our lives. And we wonder why our relationship with our Heavenly Father is not what He said it should be.