

ROBERT K. SPRADLING

AUGUST 1, 1993

*"God the Father Is Not
A Godfather"*

FOCUS ON THE FATHER

DR. JAMES DOBSON'S MINISTRY IS CALLED FOCUS ON THE FAMILY. OUR SPECIAL FINANCIAL PROGRAM AT THE BCC IS CALLED FOCUS ON THE FUTURE. I RECENTLY READ A BOOK ENTITLED YOUR OWN WORST ENEMY WRITTEN BY TWO PHDS. IT FOCUSED ON THE FAILURE OF SOME. THE AUTHORS SUGGEST THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO "SEIZE DEFEAT FROM THE JAWS OF VICTORY." IN OTHER WORDS, THEY POSSESS A SELF-DEFEATING, SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BENT TO SABOTAGE THEIR OWN LIVES. HE MENTIONS GARY HART, WILBUR MILLS, LEONA HEMSLEY, MIKE TYSON, JIM BAKER AND JIMMY SWAGGERT. THESE ALL FOCUSED ON FAILURE. IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS, WORDS SUCH AS GRACE, LOVE, RICHES, CHURCH AND HOLY SPIRIT HAVE PROVIDED IN THE PAST RICH MATERIAL FOR BIBLE STUDY. GOD THE FATHER IS MENTIONED IN EVERY CHAPTER OF EPHESIANS. HE IS FAR MORE THAN A BENEVOLENT GUARDIAN OVER HIS CHILDREN. GOD IS THE GOD OF ALL MEN BUT THE FATHER OF THOSE WHO ARE HIS SONS BY SPIRITUAL BIRTH THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. LET US EXAMINE THE FATHER'S RELATIONSHIP TO US AS REVEALED IN THE EPHESIAN LETTER:

"the universal Fatherhood of God is universally misinterpreted!"
I. WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY THE FATHER 1:3

THE WORD BLESSED IN THE TEXT IS USED TO EXPRESS GOD'S GOODNESS TO US AND OUR GRATITUDE TO HIM. WE ARE THE "BENEFICIARIES OF BLESSING." CHRISTIANS SOMETIMES MEASURE BLESSINGS BY THE SAME YARDSTICK AS NON-CHRISTIANS. FOR EXAMPLE, GOOD HEALTH, FAMILY, FRIENDS, SECURITY ARE THE THINGS WE COUNT AS BLESSINGS. HOW THEN DO CHRISTIANS DIFFER IN BLESSINGS FROM NON-CHRISTIANS? WE SAY, "I AM BLESSED," IF WE HAVE CERTAIN MATERIAL RESOURCES AND BENEFICIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. PAUL MEASURED BLESSINGS NOT ON EARTH BUT THOSE IN HEAVEN.

ACTS 17:28-30

*cf. Jn 1:12 - if all men - children a
silly statement*

R
Ragan

THE WORD BLESSED IS FROM A GREEK WORD TRANSLATED "EULOGIZE" IN ENGLISH WHICH MEANS TO SPEAK WELL OF. A EULOGY AT A FUNERAL IS AN ADDRESS WHICH SPEAKS WELL OF THE DECEASED. HOW DO MEN SPEAK OF GOD?

- (1) THEY DON'T SPEAK OF HIM AT ALL - THEY ACT AS IF HE DOES NOT EXIST. *→ IGNORE HIM*
- (2) THEY BLAME HIM FOR NATURAL DISASTERS AND SO FORTH REGISTERING THEM AS GOD'S FAULT. *(Bombed death!) Larry King...*
- (3) THEY CURSE HIM - HARDLY A WEEK GOES BY THAT WE DO NOT HEAR HIS NAME LINKED WITH PROFANITY.

ONLY BELIEVERS EULOGIZE GOD IN THE BIBLICAL SENSE. WE BLESS THE GOD WHO HAS BLESSED US. THEY ARE CALLED SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS. THE PERSON WHO HAS EXPERIENCED A SPIRITUAL BIRTH, HAS A SPIRITUAL MIND, AND SPIRITUAL GOALS IN LIFE UNDERSTANDS SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS. THEY ARE THINGS PERTAINING TO THE SPIRIT. *Rom. 8*
 (ROMANS 8:6, PHILIPPIANS 3:14) IN THIS *whole ch.* CHAPTER THEY ARE DESIGNATED AS CHOSEN, PRE-DESTINATED, ADOPTED AND ACCEPTED IN CHRIST. IN THE HEAVENLIES - THE NATURAL MAN IS TAKEN UP WITH THE "EARTHLIES". THE BLESSINGS OF EARTH OCCUPY OUR ATTENTION ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY. THE ONES WHO HAVE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE ETERNAL AND LASTING VALUE. (COMPARE THE SETTLING OF AN ESTATE. SOME FOLK ARE INTERESTED IN THE CASH, CLOTHES AND CARS - THE STUFF THEY CAN GET THEIR HANDS ON. A WISE PERSON WOULD ALSO BE INVESTED IN A TRUST THAT HAS BEEN SET UP FOR A LONG-RANGE BENEFIT!)
 IN CHRIST - THIS IS A TECHNICAL EXPRESSION TO SPEAK OF THE BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL POSITION. ALL MEN ARE EITHER IN ADAM OR IN CHRIST. (II COR. 5:17, I THESS. 4:16) WHEN A PERSON

Phone call
Now to R.R.
What imp?

IS SAVED, EVERYTHING CHANGES. (II Cor. 5:17) HE BEGINS TO SEE EVERYTHING IN LIFE FROM HEAVEN'S PERSPECTIVE. THAT IS, AS IF HE WERE LOOKING DOWN FROM HEAVEN UPON HIS EARTHLY PILGRIMAGE. SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING, BELIEVERS ARE A COLONY OF HEAVEN'S FUTURE INHABITANTS WHO ARE TEMPORARILY LIVING ON THIS PLANET AWAITING A FUTURE DAY. (COMPARE HEBREWS 11):

II. WE HAVE ACCESS TO THE FATHER - 2:18

9-10

THE WORD ACCESS MEANS RIGHT OF APPROACH OR INTRODUCTION. THE WORLD OF PAUL'S DAY WAS FILLED WITH BARRIERS, WALLS AND FENCES TO SEPARATE THE PEOPLE OF SOCIETY BY RACE, RELIGION AND RICHES. IN SOME REGARD, THE WORLD HAS NOT CHANGED. EVEN THE TEMPLE HAD ITS BARRIERS. A CASUAL READING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT REVEALS ONLY LIMITED ACCESS TO GOD BY CERTAIN PEOPLE AT CERTAIN TIMES. NOWHERE WAS THAT BARRIER MORE APPARENT THAN BETWEEN JEWS AND GENTILES. WE ALL KNOW THE FEELING OF BEING UNINVITED, UNWELCOME AND UNCOMFORTABLE. THE SIGN ON THE DOOR SAYS "STAY OUT." AS GOD'S CHILDREN, WE HAVE A RIGHT OF APPROACH OR ACCESS TO GOD. WE ARE NOT ALIENS BUT SONS. HIS DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN, HIS LINE IS NEVER BUSY! CERTAIN ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS REQUIRE AN ACCESS CODE. THERE ARE SOME PLACES THAT ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE TO US - FORT KNOX, THE OVAL OFFICE, THE OFFICE OF CORPORATE KINGS, OPERATING ROOMS IN HOSPITALS. IN BRAZIL, MANY HOMES HAVE BOTH GATES AND GUARDS TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT. EVEN PASTORS ARE SOMETIMES VERY DIFFICULT TO REACH - COMMENT REGARDING CINCINNATI AND 10-DAY ANSWER. EVERY BELIEVER MIGHT WEAR A PASS WHICH SAYS, "I HAVE ACCESS TO GOD." MARTIN LOYD-JONES HAS A GREAT STATEMENT IN THIS REGARD: "WE HAVE ALL BECOME SO SUBJECTIVE AND ARE SO MUCH INTERESTED"

Rom 5:2

See notes

God's door
always open
line never busy!

IN OUR OWN MOODS AND STATES AND FEELINGS AND CONDITIONS, THAT WHEN WE GIVE OUR TESTIMONIES WE SAY THAT WHAT SALVATION HAS DONE IS TO MAKE US HAPPY, OR TO TAKE AWAY THIS OR THAT; AND THERE WE STOP. BUT THE GRAND OBJECT OF SALVATION IS TO BRING INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD - NOTHING LESS, NOTHING SHORT OF THAT,"

I Bowed
II Access

III. WE PRAY TO AND WORSHIP THE FATHER - 3:14

AFTER PAUL WAS CONVERTED TO CHRIST HE WENT FROM PRIDE TO PROSTRATION. THE WORD BOW IN THE TEXT REFERS TO KNEELING IN PRAYER. IT IS IN THE PRESENT TENSE AND SUGGESTS REPEATED ACTION. PAUL'S POSTURE BEFORE GOD WAS ONE OF HUMBLE SUBMISSION OF HEART AND LIFE TO HIM. THE JEW'S ORDINARY WAY OF PRAYER WAS TO STAND WITH UPLIFTED ARMS AND PALMS HEAVENWARD. OUR CASUAL LIFESTYLE HAS SPAWNED A CASUAL ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD. OUR CHURCHES ARE FILLED WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE WRONG IDEAS ABOUT GOD, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT EXAMINED OR TAKEN THE BIBLE SERIOUSLY. THE WORD FOR WORSHIP IS GROSSLY MISUNDERSTOOD BECAUSE FOR SOME WORSHIP IS ENTERTAINMENT, SERMON TIME, MUSIC TIME BUT NOT WORSHIP TIME. GODLY DECORUM HAS GIVEN WAY IN SOME CHURCHES TO A BREEZY, CATCHY STAND-UP AND CHEER FOR JESUS MENTALITY! EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN SUBSTITUTED FOR EXPOSITION. MANY CHURCH LEADERS AND CONGREGATIONS ARE "APING" THE WORLD TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT PRELIMINARIES CROWD OUT THE PRIMARY IN WORSHIP. SINCE THE BOOK OF ACTS, THE PULPIT HAS BEEN THE CENTER OF THE CHURCH'S TEACHING MINISTRY. WHEN IT ERODES, APOSTASY LURKS IN THE SHADOWS. IN THE AREA OF WORSHIP, SOMEONE HAS WELL SAID "WHAT THE HEART HAS NEVER KNOWN IT NEVER MISSES." PICTURE PAUL THE PRISONER BOWING HIS KNEE IN THE PRESENCE OF A SOLDIER WHO

① Above
② Abides

① Blessed
② Access
③ worship
④ In the

WITNESSES THIS GODLY PRAYER WARRIOR. A PRAYER MINISTRY ANYWHERE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.

IV. WE HAVE A FATHER WHO IS ABOVE, THROUGH AND IN ALL - 4:6

THERE ARE TWO KEY WORDS IN THE TEXT.

ONE AND ALL - THERE IS A ONENESS THAT SHOULD CHARACTERIZE ALL BELIEVERS BY VIRTUE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE GOD WHO IS THREE PERSONS BUT ONE GOD. (COMMENT ON SINGING DOXOLOGY) THE PHRASE "FATHER OF ALL" IS A REFERENCE TO THE FATHER AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO BELIEVERS. NO COUNTRY, RACE OR RELIGION HAS EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO GOD. HE IS THE GOD OF ALL MEN. THE CONTEXT IDENTIFIES YOU. THE YOU IN VERSE 1 REFERS TO CHRISTIANS. THE YOU IN VERSE 4 REFERS TO CHRISTIANS. THE YOU IN VERSE 6 REFERS TO CHRISTIANS - NOT ALL MANKIND. GOD IS IN CONTROL, THE CHANNEL OF HIS OPERATION IS THROUGH BELIEVERS AND HE INDWELLS HIS OWN. THIS IS GOD'S WORLD. MAN DOESN'T OWN ONE FOOT OF IT. AT BEST, WE RELINQUISH ALL HOLD ON THIS WORLD. THERE IS AN INTERESTING FEATURE CONCERNING THE WORD ALL. IT IS NOT IN THE NEUTER BUT MASCULINE GENDER. THAT IS, GOD IS IN HIS PEOPLE AND NOT IN ALL THINGS AS THE PANTHEIST OR NEW AGER SUGGEST. MARTIN LOYD-JONES REMINDS US THAT THE SCRIPTURE MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT GOD IS NOT THE FATHER OF ALL MEN. (JOHN 8:44) GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL AND THERE IS A KIND OF GENERAL FATHERHOOD IN THIS RESPECT BUT THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD SPECIFICALLY HAS TO DO WITH THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST. (GAL. 3:26)

(Acts 17:28-30)
(Jn 1:12)

1. Bless
2. accord
3. worship
4. In/above
5. thank @ love

V. WE GIVE THANKS TO THE FATHER - 5:20

OUR THANKSGIVING TO GOD IS SAID TO BE ALWAYS AND FOR ALL THINGS. EVERY DAY OF HIS LIFE, RELIGIOUS JEWS PRAYED TO GOD IN THE MORNING AND THANKED GOD SPECIFICALLY FOR THREE THINGS: (1) THAT HE WAS NOT A GENTILE, (2) THAT HE WAS NOT A SLAVE, (3) THAT HE WAS NOT A WOMAN! IT IS ALWAYS APPROPRIATE, NO MATTER WHAT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, TO THANK GOD! (1 THESS. 5:20) ALL THINGS IS VERY INCLUSIVE. CHRYSOSTON WAS ASKED IF HE COULD GIVE THANKS FOR HELL! HIS ANSWER, "YES, BE THANKFUL WE ARE NOT THERE OR GOING TO BE AND FOR THE WARNING GOD HAS GIVEN US TO TURN US BACK FROM THAT DIRECTION." CHRISTIANS NEED TO BE TAUGHT TO SAY THANK YOU TO GOD. IT IS NOT AN AUTOMATIC GESTURE. WE NEED TO LEARN COURTESY WITH GOD JUST AS WE NEED TO LEARN IT IN EVERY FACET AND ASPECT OF LIFE. THE PHRASE "I THANK GOD" WAS A FREQUENT FORMULA IN PAULINE PRAYER. (REV. 11:17)

P. L.F.

VI. WE HAVE PEACE FROM THE FATHER - 6:23

PEACE TO THE BRETHREN - AND THE "SISTERN" TOO! IN HIS BEST SELLING BOOK ENTITLED BEATING THE STREET PETER LYNCH SPEAKS OF SOME OF HIS GOOD STOCK SELECTIONS AS BEING "BIG BAGGERS." FOR EXAMPLE, A STOCK THAT TRIPLES IN VALUE OVER A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME WAS CALLED A "TRIPLE BAGGER." IN THIS CONCLUDING PASSAGE, PAUL SAW GOD THE FATHER AND THE "BLOCK BUSTER BLESSINGS" HE GIVES TO THE BELIEVER. PEACE IS COUPLED WITH LOVE AND FAITH. WITH DEFERENCE TO PETER LYNCH, THESE ARE BLESSINGS MONEY CANNOT BUY. ONE MIGHT HAVE THE MULTIPLIED MILLIONS OF AN IVAN BOSKY OR A MICHAEL MILKEN AND YET GO TO JAIL. ONE MIGHT HAVE MONEY

IN MAJOR BANKS IN THIS COUNTRY AND ALSO
SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS - BUT IT WILL NOT BUY
EITHER THE LOVE OF GOD OR THE GENUINE
AFFECTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL. ONE MIGHT BE VERY
WEALTHY AND HAVE FAITH IN NO ONE - INCLUDING
GOD. ONE IS IMPRESSED WHILE READING
BIOGRAPHIES THAT SO MANY DIE WITHOUT REST,
TRANQUILITY OR SERENITY. WHEN PAUL WROTE THE
EPHESIAN LETTER, THE PEACE OF ROME HAD SPREAD
ACROSS THE WORLD BUT SEEKERS OF PEACE DID
NOT FIND IT IN ROME, BUT IN CHRIST. SOMEONE
HAS WELL SAID, "WE WILL NEVER GET REST UNTIL
WE GET RIGHT." (ROMANS 5:1)

mat. 11:28ff.

Don
Bew.

ROBERT K. SPRADLING

JUNE 20, 1993

*God is
the universal
misanthrope!
See June 1994*

THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD (Every Chapter)

*Our Father =
His Father*

GALATIANS 1:1, 3

*Eph. 1:2-3, 17 2:18 3:14 4:6
3:20, 23 6:23*

TODAY IS FATHER'S DAY. FOR THE BELIEVER, WE HAVE AN EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY FATHER. WHEN THE DISCIPLES PRAYED "OUR FATHER" IT WAS THE PRAYER OF A BELIEVER AND HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP TO GOD. SCRIPTURE MAKES A DISTINCTION BETWEEN MAN'S NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP TO GOD. IN THE NATURAL SENSE, WE ARE ALL THE "OFFSPRINGS" OF GOD. (ACTS 17:28 - BUT AS A MATTER OF FACT SO ARE THE BIRDS AND ANIMALS OF THIS PLANET!) IF MEN ARE ALREADY THE SONS OR CHILDREN OF GOD, THEN JOHN 1:12 COMMANDS US TO BECOME SOMETHING WE ALREADY ARE! GALATIANS 3:26 STATES: "FOR YE ARE ALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS." PAUL SPOKE OF OUR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP TO GOD AS MANIFESTED IN THE TERMS "ABBA FATHER". (ROMANS 8:15) TODAY, LET US EXAMINE SEVERAL VERBS WHICH SPEAK OF THE FATHER'S RELATIONSHIP TO MANKIND.

I. THE FATHER SPEAKS - HEBREWS 1:1

GOD SPOKE TO ADAM AND EVE. HE SPOKE TO JOB. HE SPOKE TO SATAN. HE SPOKE TO NOAH AND ABRAHAM. FROM THE PATRIARCHS TO THE PROPHETS GOD - THE PERSONAL BEING - HAS COMMUNICATED TO MANKIND. HE DOES NOT NOW SPEAK TO MEN BY DIRECT REVELATION BUT THROUGH THE WRITTEN REVELATION WE CALL THE BIBLE. FOR THOSE WHO SAY GOD APPEARED TO THEM, SPOKE TO THEM - THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTION - CHANGE YOUR MEDICATION! COMMENT REGARDING THE MAN WHO APPEARED AT SPURGEON'S CHURCH ONE SUNDAY EVENING DECLARING THAT GOD TOLD HIM TO COME THERE AND SPEAK THAT NIGHT. SPURGEON FOUND IT STRANGE BECAUSE HE SAID GOD HADN'T TOLD HIM ANYTHING ABOUT IT! THE VOICE OF GOD IS THE VOICE OF AUTHORITY. (COMPARE EXODUS

Son = Final Revelation

*Steve McQueen
a megastar
a grimeace can
look for his
father - died 3 mos.*

20:1 ff) GOD HAS THE RIGHT TO DIRECT AND DO WITHOUT CONSULTING ANYONE AND WHAT HE SAYS AND DOES IS ALWAYS RIGHT. HE NEEDS NO OTHER SUPPORT. THE FACT THAT HE SAYS IT MAKES IT TRUE AND CORRECT. COMMENT REGARDING O. A. S. BIG MAN - BIG VOICE WHEN HE SAID - I DID. NO MOUTH, NO LIP, JUST DO IT. NEEDED IN THE FAMILY TODAY - A VOICE OF AUTHORITY. YOUNG DESPERATELY NEED TO LEARN RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY IN THE HOME, SCHOOL AND CHURCH. IN SOCIETY THERE ARE PLACES WHERE THEY CAN GO UNTIL THEY DO LEARN THAT AUTHORITY - THOSE PLACES ARE CALLED JAILS! HIS VOICE WAS ALSO THE VOICE OF APPROVAL. (MATTHEW 17:5) THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY BOOK GOD HAS EVER WRITTEN AND IT IS THROUGH IT AND THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD THAT GOD SPEAKS TO MEN.

II. THE FATHER SAVES - ISAIAH 45:22, JOHN 12:

God has no grand children!

JONAH WAS CORRECT WHEN HE SAID - "SALVATION IS OF THE LORD." (JONAH 2:9) THE EMPHASIS IN THE ISAIAH PASSAGE IS ON THE WORD ME. IT IS A PERSONAL REFERENCE TO A PERSONAL GOD. VERSES: "...IT PLEASED GOD BY THE FOOLISHNESS OF PREACHING TO SAVE THEM THAT BELIEVE. I COR. 1:21 "GOD...WHO HATH SAVED US AND CALLED US WITH A HOLY CALLING....(1 TIM. 1:9) WE TRUST IN THE LIVING GOD, WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN, SPECIALLY OF THOSE THAT BELIEVE." (1 TIM. 4:10) WHEN THE WORD SAVED APPEARS IN THE BIBLE ESPECIALLY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE SAVIORHOOD OF JESUS. HOWEVER, THE WORD SOOZOO MAY REFER TO BOTH PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL DELIVERANCE. COMPARE ACTS 27:20, 31 AND ACTS 16:30. THE EMPHASIS ON THE BIBLE IS ON PERSONAL SALVATION. ROMANS 10:9, 13, EPHESIANS 2:8, 1 TIMOTHY 1:15, TITUS 3:5, HEBREWS 7:25.

No. 21: 8

Dr. 3: 14-16

III. THE FATHER SEALS - JOHN 6:27

IN ANCIENT TIMES, A STAMP OR A SIGNET RING WERE WAYS OF SEALING SOMETHING. IN ANCIENT TIMES IT WAS NOT THE SIGNATURE BUT THE SEAL THAT GAVE DOCUMENTS AUTHENTICITY AND AUTHORITY. IN THE WORLD OF COMMERCE, THE SEAL OFTEN IMPRINTED WITH A SIGNET RING WAS WHAT MADE THE DOCUMENT AUTHENTIC. IN ANCIENT GREEK SOCIETY IT WAS THE SEAL THAT GAVE VALIDITY TO A WILL. IN THE FIELD OF COMMERCE A SEAL ON A SACK OR CRATE GUARANTEED ITS CONTENTS. ACCORDING TO BARCLAY IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM THERE ARE SEALS OF MANY OF THE ASSYRIAN ~~SEALS~~ KINGS. THE SEAL WAS FIXED ON CLAY AND THE CLAY ATTACHED TO THE DOCUMENT. THE DOCUMENT MAY HAVE LONG SINCE PERISHED BUT THE SEAL REMAINED. JESUS CHRIST WAS SEALED BY GOD, GOD'S TRUTH INCARNATE. TO SEE HIM WAS TO SEE GOD, TO OBEY HIM WAS TO OBEY GOD, TO RECEIVE HIM WAS TO RECEIVE GOD! HE AND WE ARE SEALED FOR SOVEREIGN PURPOSES. *we too... Eph 1:13*

IV. THE ~~SPIRIT~~ FATHER SANCTIFIES AND SENDS - JOHN 10:36

(His Mission -
(LK. 19:10))

SINCE BOTH WORDS BEGINNING WITH S APPEAR IN A SINGLE VERSE WE WILL PUT THEM TOGETHER. IN THE PREVIOUS VERSES, A REFERENCE IS MADE TO JEWISH MAGISTRATES OR JUDGES WHO ACTED AS GOD'S AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES ADMINISTERING JUSTICE FOR GOD. IF THESE AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES ACTING FOR GOD ARE REFERRED TO AS GODS, THEN WHY SHOULD JESUS' CRITICS BE UPSET OR SURPRISED WHEN HE REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS THE SON OF GOD? WHY SHOULD THEY QUESTION HIS CLAIMS WHEN HE WAS VASTLY SUPERIOR TO THEM? THERE WERE MANY JUDGES IN ISRAEL - DIVINELY APPOINTED - BUT ONLY ONE COULD BE THE ANNOINTED MESSIAH, SENT BY THE FATHER AND THEY HAD BOTH DENIED AND REJECTED HIM. THE JUDGES SPOKE GOD'S APPOINTED WORD, JESUS WAS GOD'S APPOINTED SON.

*Divinely Anointed
Appointed*

I Squire
II Savage
III Seals
IV Small's

HE weighs as well as
measures our giving.

- 4 -

V. THE FATHER SEES - MATTHEWS 6:4, I THESS. 1:3 (more impt that He - Not we see - Giving)
in our Heart... (Sent)

GOD "SEES" EVERYONE, ALL THE TIME AND EVERYTHING THEY DO. IN THEOLOGY THIS IS CALLED OMMSCIENCE. IN II CHRONICLES 16:9 THE SCRIPTURE SAYS: "THE EYES... RANGE THROUGH THE WHOLE EARTH TO BRING AID AND COMFORT TO THOSE WHOSE HEARTS ARE LOYAL TO HIM...." GOD'S SCRUTINY IS WORLD-WIDE. HE SIMPLY SEES EVERYTHING. THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH WE ARE ALWAYS IN THE PRESENCE OF, SIGHT OF GOD. ANOTHER WAY TO SAY IT IS THAT WE ARE NEVER OUT OF HIS SIGHT - WE CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HIM. HE SEES OUR DEEDS AND OUR THOUGHTS. "THOU GOD SEEST ME." (PSALM 139)

ALSO, ACCORDING TO HEBREWS 4:13 ALL THINGS ARE BARE OR EXPOSED BEFORE HIS EYES. HE IS THE ONE TO WHOM WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE, ANSWERABLE AND REQUIRED TO EXPLAIN OUR BEHAVIOR. BY THE WAY, THE WORD "OPENLY" IN THE TEXT IS NOT IN THE BEST MANUSCRIPTS. ONE IS NOT ALWAYS PUBLICALLY REWARDED FOR PRIVATE PIETY BUT ONE IS ALWAYS REWARDED. Prov. 15:3 "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, looking on the evil and the good."

VI. THE FATHER SEEKS - JOHN 4:23

THE SUBJECT IN THE CONTEXT IS WORSHIP. WORSHIP IS DIFFICULT TO DEFINE BUT INHERENT IN THE IDEA IS THAT WORD WORTH. MEN WORSHIP WHAT THEY VALUE. WIERSBE CALLS WORSHIP "ADORING RESPONSE". THAT IS OUR RESPONSE TO GOD. THE SCRIPTURES SPEAK OF IGNORANT WORSHIP - ACTS 17:23 AND INTELLIGENT WORSHIP. (JOHN 4:19-24) GENUINE WORSHIP IS NOT ENTERTAINMENT OR ESCAPISM BUT RATHER ENLIGHTENMENT WITH REFERENCE TO THE PERSON OF GOD. (COMPARE PSALM 73) WIERSBE HAS GIVEN AN INTERESTING DEFINITION TO WORSHIP AS BEST WE CAN WHEN HE SAYS "WORSHIP IS THE BELIEVERS' RESPONSE OF ALL THAT HE IS - MIND, EMOTIONS, WILL, AND BODY - TO ALL THAT GOD IS AND SAYS AND DOES."

Lonely
But
Never
Alone

Reverend
Ritual

- 5 -

THIS RESPONSE HAS ITS MYSTICAL SIDE IN SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE, AND ITS PRACTICAL SIDE IN OBJECTIVE OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S REVEALED TRUTH. IT IS A LOVING RESPONSE THAT IS BALANCED BY THE FEAR OF THE LORD, AND IT IS A DEEPENING RESPONSE AS THE BELIEVER COMES TO KNOW GOD BETTER. WE REFER TO CERTAIN SERVICES AS WORSHIP SERVICES. IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE RITUAL RIGHT, SINGING RIGHT, MESSAGE RIGHT AND STILL NOT WORSHIP GOD! JESUS DESCRIBED SUCH A CONDITION WHEN HE SAID "THIS PEOPLE DRAWETH NIGH UNTO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH AND HONORETH ME WITH THEIR LIPS BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME." (MATTHEW 15:8)

God is gathering a group of worshippers. (Rev. 5:14)

Do you see God as your Father
or AS - FAVOR — Forfeited —
Failed —

APRIL 20, 1986
Rev. [Signature] 1993

GOD THE FATHER IS NOT A GODFATHER

EPHESIANS 1:17

THE WORD GODFATHER DOES NOT REFER TO GOD THE FATHER ANY MORE THAN GODCHILD REFERS TO A CHILD OF GOD! A GODFATHER IS A MAN WHO SPONSORS A CHILD AT BAPTISM OR CONFIRMATION OR THE TERM MAY REFER TO AN UNDERWORLD CRIME BOSS - NONE OF WHICH HAVE ANY REFERENCE TO GOD. GOD THE FATHER IS FAR MORE THAN A BENEVOLENT SPONSOR OR GUARDIAN OVER HIS CHILDREN. A PERSON IS NOT A FATHER UNTIL HE HAS CHILDREN. GOD IS THE GOD OF ALL MEN BUT THIS IS ALSO TRUE OF ANIMALS. IT REFERS TO THE GIVER OF PHYSICAL LIFE. HE IS THE FATHER OF THOSE WHO BECOME HIS CHILDREN OR SONS BY SPIRITUAL BIRTH THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST (JOHN 1:12, GAL. 3:26) SIMPLY STATED, GOD IS THE GOD OF ALL MEN BUT THE FATHER OF THOSE WHO KNOW CHRIST. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IF MEN WERE THE SONS OF GOD, THEY WOULD LOVE JESUS CHRIST, THE SUPREME OBJECT OF GOD'S AFFECTION. IN THE EPHESIAN EPISTLE, GOD, FATHER, IS MENTIONED IN EVERY CHAPTER.

1. GOD THE FATHER HAS BLESSED US - EPH
CHRISTIANS TEND TO MEASURE BLESSINGS BY SAME YARDSTICK AS NON-CHRISTIANS. FOR GOOD HEALTH, FAMILY, FRIENDS, SECURITY, ARE THE THINGS WE COUNT AS BLESSINGS. QUESTION: HOW THEN, DO CHRISTIANS "I AM BLESSED" IF WE HAVE CERTAIN MATERIAL RESOURCES AND BENEFICIAL CIRCUMSTANCES MEASURED BLESSINGS NOT ON EARTH BUT HEAVENLIES. THE ONLY WAY ONE MAY HIS SPIRITUAL BENEFITS IS TO READ

"the earthlies" - Nat man
"the heavenlies" - Sp. man
(in) Heaven

Re. ~~8/8~~ 1993GOD THE FATHER IS NOT A GODFATHER

EPHESIANS 1:17

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Rome
★
the universal Fatherhood of God ... universally misunderstood!
 I. GOD THE FATHER HAS BLESSED US - EPH. 1:3

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QUESTION: How THEN, DO CHRISTIANS DIFFER IN BLESSINGS FROM NON-CHRISTIANS? WE SAY "I AM BLESSED" IF WE HAVE CERTAIN MATERIAL RESOURCES AND BENEFICIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. PAUL MEASURED BLESSINGS NOT ON EARTH BUT IN THE HEAVENLIES. THE ONLY WAY ONE MAY KNOW OF HIS SPIRITUAL BENEFITS IS TO READ THE BIBLE.

"the earthlies" - Not man

(in) Heaven

"the Heavens"

Sp. man

→ there / not there

IN THE TEXT IS THE WORD PROSAGOOGAN. IT WAS USED TO DESCRIBE AN OFFICIAL IN ORIENTAL COURTS WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY WAS TO INTRODUCE PEOPLE WHO WERE QUALIFIED FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING. IT IMPLIES RIGHT OF INTRODUCTION AND APPROACH. (COMMENT ON TAD LINCOLN AND OUR ACCESS ROAD.)

III. GOD THE FATHER IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP - Ep. 3:14

THIS POINT IN THE OUTLINE SOUNDS LIKE A SILLY STATEMENT. SURELY WE KNOW THAT GOD IS WORTHY OF OUR WORSHIP BUT NOT ALL PEOPLE KNOW OR PRACTICE THIS BIBLE INJUNCTION. FOR EXAMPLE, WE CALL THIS SERVICE A WORSHIP SERVICE YET SOME MAY BE PRESENT YET NOT WORSHIP. AFTER PAUL WAS CONVERTED TO CHRIST HE WENT FROM PRIDE TO PROSTRATION. THE WORD BOW IN THE TEXT IS A REFERENCE TO KNEELING IN PRAYER, IT IS IN THE PRESENT TENSE SUGGESTING REPEATED ACTION. PAUL'S POSTURE BEFORE GOD WAS ONE OF HUMBLE SUBMISSION OF HEART AND LIFE TO HIM. WHAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT THE WORD IS THAT THE JEW'S ORDINARY WAY OF PRAYER WAS TO STAND WITH UPLIFTED ARMS AND PALMS HEAVENWARD. OUR DAY HAS SPAWNED BOTH A CASUAL LIFESTYLE AND A CASUAL ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD. OUR CHURCHES ARE FILLED WITH WRONG IDEAS ABOUT GOD BECAUSE PEOPLE DO NOT EXAMINE THE SCRIPTURES TO LEARN ABOUT HIM. THE WORD WORSHIP IS GROSSLY MISUNDERSTOOD BECAUSE FOR SOME A WORSHIP SERVICE IS SHOW TIME, FUN TIME, ENTERTAINMENT TIME, SERMON TIME, BUT CERTAINLY NOT WORSHIP! IN SONG, STEWARDSHIP AND SERMON WE SHOULD BE EXAMINING HIS WORTH "IN MY SHIP." GODLY DECORUM HAS GIVEN WAY IN SOME CHURCHES TO A BREEZY, CATCHY, LET'S STAND UP AND CHEER FOR JESUS MENTALITY.

Review

EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN SUBSTITUTED FOR EXPOSITION. MANY CHURCH LEADERS AND CONGREGATIONS ARE BUSY "APING" THE WORLD TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT PRELIMINARIES CROWD OUT THE PRIMARY ASPECT OF WORSHIP. SINCE THE BOOK OF ACTS, THE PULPIT HAS BEEN THE CENTER OF THE CHURCH'S TEACHING MINISTRY. WHEN IT ERODES, APOSTASY IS NEAR. SOMEONE HAS WELL SAID IN THE AREA OF WORSHIP: "WHAT THE HEART HAS NEVER KNOWN IT NEVER MISSES." (Rev. val)
(DR. WIERSBE HAS WRITTEN A NEW BOOK ON WORSHIP AND IF YOU CAN SECURE A COPY OF BAXTER'S "RETHINKING OUR PRIORITIES", PLEASE READ THE CHAPTER ON PUBLIC WORSHIP - IT'S A CLASSIC!

IV. GOD THE FATHER IS GOD OVER ALL - Eph. 4:6

THERE ARE TWO KEY WORDS IN THE TEXT, ONE AND ALL. THERE IS A ONENESS THAT SHOULD CHARACTERIZE ALL BELIEVERS. THE PHRASE "FATHER OF ALL" IS A REFERENCE TO THE FATHER OF ALL BELIEVERS. NO COUNTRY, RACE, OR RELIGION HAS EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO THE ONE TRUE GOD. HE IS THE GOD OF ALL MEN. (JOHN 3:16) HUMAN PRIDE EVEN IN RELIGION ENJOYS EXCLUSIVE-NESS. THERE ARE THREE GREEK PREPOSITIONS NOT OBVIOUS IN THE ENGLISH TEXT. THE WORD "EPI" MEANS OVER, THAT IS GOD IS ABOVE ALL. THE WORD "DIA" MEANS GOD IS THROUGH OR WORKING THROUGH BELIEVERS. THE PREPOSITION "EN" REFERS TO GOD'S INDWELLING ALL BELIEVERS. THIS VERSE REMINDS US THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL, THE CHANNEL OF HIS OPERATION IS THROUGH BELIEVERS, AND HE INDWELLS HIS OWN. THIS IS GOD'S WORLD - MAN DOESN'T OWN ONE BIT OF IT! DEATH SETTLES THAT IDEA.

"ALL" - not vector

but mass. gender
i.e. in His people
not rocks/trees, as
Pantheist says!
New Aeon

Believers

v. 4
v. c

I Blessed
II Access
III worship
IV over the

V. GOD THE FATHER AND GIVING OF THANKS

Eph. 5:20

THIS VERSE TEACHES THAT EVERY DAY IS THANKSGIVING DAY FOR CHRISTIANS. IT IS OUR OBLIGATION AND A MARK OF SPIRIT FILLING TO BE THANKFUL. WE ARE INDEBTED TO GOD WITH GRATITUDE. FOUR IDEAS ABOUT THANKSGIVING:

(1) ALWAYS

THANKSGIVING IS ALWAYS APPROPRIATE NO MATTER WHERE WE ARE OR IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES.

(2) FOR ALL THINGS

CHRYSOSTOM WAS ASKED IF WE COULD GIVE THANKS FOR HELL? HIS ANSWER WAS, "YES, BE THANKFUL WE ARE NOT THERE OR GOING TO BE AND FOR THE WARNING GOD SENT US THAT TURNED US FROM THAT DIRECTION."

(3) UNTO GOD

GOD IS A ~~SOURCE~~ OF BLESSING AND THE ~~OBJECT~~ OF OUR THANKSGIVING.

(4) IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

CHRIST IS THE CHANNEL OF ALL BLESSING. THIS VERSE IS IN A HOME CONTEXT AND WOULD REVEAL THAT THE REAL TEST OF A THANKFUL HEART IS IN THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE.

VI. GOD THE FATHER AND FOUR BLOCKBUSTER BLESSINGS - Eph. 6:23-24

SOMEONE HAS CHARACTERIZED THE CONCLUDING BLESSINGS OF THIS BOOK AS THEY RELATE TO GOD THE FATHER AS P.L.F.G. THIS IS PAUL'S GREAT VALEDICTORY PRAYER. (HIS FAREWELL)

HE CONCLUDES WHERE HE BEGAN WITH GOD'S RICHES AND BLESSING TO US.

(1) PEACE - PEACE FOR THE BELIEVER IS BOTH WITH AND FROM GOD.

(2) LOVE WITH FAITH - THESE TWO BLESSINGS CO-EXIST BECAUSE LOVE ACCOMPANIES GENUINE FAITH, IT IS THE FRUIT OF TRUE FAITH - THEY GO TOGETHER.

(3) GRACE - THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF GRACE BUT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BEGINS WITH GRACE THAT SAVES. (EPH. 2:8-9)

Saving
Grace
Sufficient

Peace

We will never get rest
from God until we get right
with Him. (Rom 5:1)
(Mt. 11:28)

African
chief

Don (Ber)

"NO peace
until .. settled!"

Rom. 3:24

AS A MATTER OF FACT, VERY FEW BELIEVERS SPEAK OF THEIR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST. THIS CHAPTER REMINDS US OF OUR SPIRITUAL ADDRESS - "IN CHRIST." THE BELIEVER HAS BEEN CHOSEN, PREDESTINED, ADOPTED AND ACCEPTED IN CHRIST. THE TERM BLESSED MEANS "TO SPEAK WELL OF" AND IN RECOUNTING HIS SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS, PAUL SPEAKS WELL OF THE GOD WHO HAS BLESSED HIM. (RELATE PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF PARENTAL DRUNKENNESS, DIVORCE, MARITAL MISERY UNTIL CHRIST CHANGED ALL OF THAT. BOOZE WAS OUT, THE BIBLE IN. FROM 1948 ON WE COULD SAY THAT GOD HAD BLESSED US!) (Rom. 8:1)

II. GOD THE FATHER HAS GIVEN US ACCESS TO HIMSELF - Ep. 2:18

THE WORLD OF PAUL'S DAY WAS FILLED WITH BARRIERS, WALLS AND FENCES TO SEPARATE THE PEOPLE IN SOCIETY BY RACE, RELIGION, CULTURE OR ECONOMICS. IN THAT REGARD, THE WORLD HAS NOT FULLY CHANGED. EVEN THE TEMPLE HAD ITS BARRIERS. A CASUAL READING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT REVEALS ONLY LIMITED ACCESS TO GOD BY CERTAIN PEOPLE AT CERTAIN TIMES OF THE YEAR. NOWHERE WAS THIS BARRIER MORE APPARENT THAN THE DISTANCE BETWEEN JEWS AND GENTILES. WE ALL KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THERE ARE SOME PLACES WHERE WE ARE NOT WELCOME, OUT OF PLACE, UNINVITED AND UNCOMFORTABLE. THE SIGN ON THE DOOR SAYS "STAY OUT." AS GOD'S CHILDREN, WE HAVE RIGHT OF APPROACH OR ACCESS TO GOD. WE ARE NOT ALIENS BUT SONS, MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. WE CRY ABBA, FATHER BECAUSE WE ARE HIS SONS. GOD'S DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN TO US, HIS LINE IS NEVER BUSY! (RELATE TECHNIQUE OF "WHO'S CALLING PLEASE?" AND "SORRY, HE'S NOT IN!") THE WORD ACCESS

"Access Code" = Heb. 4:16

Jesus Duty

eye Room

Office of Corp. King

" A FAITHFUL FATHER "
Gen. 22

On this father's day just two things about my own father before we get to the lesson. I know of no man whom I respect more than my father--for many reasons but two or three stand out (1) A man and not a sissy (2) a Christian and loves the Christ of God.

Picture in your mind those anxious years when Abraham and Sarah had no son. God had promised a son but as the years slipped by they grew older until finally the time of childbearing had passed and no son! Now they were too old, had God made a mistake? But finally (21:1-3) a son was born in their old age--a miracle of the Lord--what rejoicing there must have been in the tents that day. Abraham surely loved this little lad and as he watched Isaac grow the thoughts of all the promised blessing of God was to rest upon the seed of Abraham thru this son.

Abraham had often watched the heathen in his native country sacrifice their young to their gods in ignorance. How good it was to serve a God who did not require such things. Then one day the Lord called to Abraham once again.

Introduction to the section: Verse 1
"tempt" does not mean to tempt with evil for God cannot do this according to James 1:13. This word tempt is used in other places to denote "proving" or putting something to the test. Ex. 15:25 and 1 Sam. 17:39 God was not testing Abraham to see if he would fall, for God knew Abraham, the test was for Abraham's benefit that he might be strengthened in his faith and trust in the Lord--hence a better servant of the Lord. He would know that God was supreme in his life.

Now God calls Abraham again--- Abraham recognized the voice. (Never reach a summit in life where no more testing, Abraham had heard that voice before: Ur, Lot, Ishmael.

I. THE CALL WAS CLEAR AS TO THE PERSONS INVOLVED--v.1-2

A. "Abraham"...Isaac"

1. God always calls us by name, and it is personal. Our God is like that--a personal relationship.
 - a. Moses--Ex. 3:4 "Here am I" → cf SALVATION
 - b. Samuel-- 1 Sam. 3:4 "Here am I"
 - c. Isaiah-- Isa. 6:6 "Here am I; send me"
 - d. Paul--"Lord what wilt thou have me to do"
2. God never gets mixed up in His calling. My task is not like yours--the pack always fits the back.

II. THE CALL WAS CLEAR AS TO THE PLACE INVOLVED---

A. "the land of Moriah...one of the mountains"

1. Not known exactly where, but has been suggested that the "land" received its name from the "mount" on which the temple was built.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that this was the very mount, at least generally speaking, where the Lord died.

2. God's call is always to specific. It is not always known immediately but it is revealed.
cf. Jonah—God called him to a job and to a specific city. (Great consolation to men who have broken with apostate groups)

"I will tell thee of"

For those who seek to know God's will—God never leaves them in the dark. They may not see all the details but enough to act upon.

"rose up and went to the place of which God had told him..."

III. THE CALL WAS NOT CLEAR AS TO THE PURPOSE

A. This was the only thing that was not spelled out.

B. Notice Abraham's reaction: *→ TRADGON IN FAMILY: SALLY*

1. He did not ask why the Lord did this?
The fact that God had spoken was enough.
**Dad use to say—Don't ask me why, just do it!
Abraham ask for no explanations.

2. Abraham did not consider any sacrifice too great for the Lord. *LIVES DEVOID OF BLESSING - NO SACRIFICE*

C. God does not always tell us why. He simply asks us like Abraham to trust him and obey. The explanations will come when the battle is over! (Generals do not take time during the battle to explain to every soldier why he is doing as he does—after the victory the explanation will be obvious to all'.)

D. God's purpose for the believer is always for our good and His glory. Rom. 8:28

IV. THE CALL WAS CLEAR AS TO THE PROVISION INVOLVED---v.2&8

A. "offer him there for a burnt offering."

B. "God will provide"

We can always count on this. It never fails. It may not be when we think it should be, but He will provide! General principle---Phil. 4:19

Salvation: A prophetic statement---John 1:29

1. Our memory is short--we like Israel forget the provision of the Lord.

V. THE CALL WAS CLEAR AS TO THE PROCEDURE INVOLVED

A. "offer"

B. "altar"---v.9

The altar a symbol in Abrahams life.

12:7--land

13:8--land and seed

22--son

C. An Act of Dedication:

1. On this altar Abraham's dearest possession.

"When Abraham picked up the knife, it was just as if the boy were already dead as far as he was concerned.

2. cf. Hebrews 11:17-19

In giving our dearest things in life to God, we cannot loose them--the only safe place for safe keeping.

VI. THERE IS ANOTHER PICTURE BEHIND THE SCENES

A. Notice the parallel to a New Testament scene:

1. A father who has a beloved son--Jn. 3:16

2. A father willing to offer his son as a sacrifice. A burnt offering 2 Cor. 5:21, Rom. 5:8

3. A son completely obedient to his father--Phil. 2

4. A son offered in our stead.

Here is where the picture changes. Look yonder at Calvary, the Son is on the Cross where is the ram--there is none--^{He} is the sacrifice.

How does this effect me??

1. The Bible says Christ died for you--in your place.

2. The Bible says or asks you to do something about it--receive Christ as your personal Saviour.

How???

" A FATHER'S SON"

Lk. 15:11-24

Jesus used stories to teach eternal truth and none is more widely known and loved than that of the prodigal son. When I suggested to my wife that I was going to depart from our series in Exodus for a Father's Day message---she reminded me that Billy Graham had used this recently on T.V. However, this was just the last one/third---more than that it was of some satisfaction to read that Moody preached from this text some 2000 times! We shall not wear it out! (Hearers maybe!)

Portions this dear to the hearts of the saints usually have some interesting, humorous events attached to them, one I have appreciated about this one is the story of a Sunday School teacher trying to teach a class of Junior boys--"Who was sorry when the prodigal son returned--- "The fatted calf"

I. DEMAND--v.12 "give me"

There was a Jewish custom that the Father of a family could bestow his estate on his heirs in one of two ways:

1. Lump sum
2. Little by little over period of time.

The firstborn received a double portion. The younger received one/third of all movable property.

This boy was restless to shake off the restraint of a Christian home. Though it was a home of means and comfort, it was a home with restrictions. (Devil's chief trick--- restrictions are bad---Eden.)

This boy did not know the blessing of the home he was in.

1. The Father a good provider.
2. The Father sober.
3. The Father loved him.

Let us imagine some reasons why he wanted to get away:

1. Disliked the routine--longed for excitement. *Bored with life.*
2. Disliked the discipline-- "Son as long as you eat at my table and sleep under my roof--you will obey me!")
3. Disliked the church life.

This was too much. Church all the time. Grace at the table. Preachers for dinner. Dad reading the Bible. How old-fashion and corny can you be!

II. DEPARTURE--v.13

1. "not many days after"--stayed around for a few days to lend respectability to his manner.

2. "gathered all"

His an eat, drink, be merry, philosophy.

Held nothing back.

3. "far country" -- *No fun spending in home town!*

Get far from home. Problem: Generation on wheels.

Folk like to drive to another town where not known and there commit their evil deeds.

(I have knoww a few men like this...Francis Holly. His mother last letter in a foxhole in Korea.)

III. DEBAUCHERY--v.13b-16

In these verses there are two words which characterize this boys sin---"wasted" and "want"

A. Wasted

This word means to "scatter abroad" in every direction, to throw away without regard, and easy come easy go idea.

1. Wasted His Treasure---"spent all"

The money it had taken his father a lifetime to collect he spent in a short time. (Jody Stadler---his literally drunk up thousands of dollars. In and out of half a dozen schools. Married the daughter of a former state governor...living off the taxpayers??)

2. Wasted his Time

Time is a very precious thing. We only pass thru life once. Some who want to sow wild oats do not remember that we must reap every one we sow. Gal. 6:7 **Dad with tears in his eyes---years I wasted for the Devil---grain to the Devil---throw God the cobb!

3. Wasted Talent

Years he could have served the Lord---living in sin, destroying years from life span.

**Nails in a board..scars remain. Scars of sin.

B. Want

This word "want" is very interesting. It means to "lack". Used regarding the Rich Young Ruler..

"What lack I yet"...One thing thou lackest.

Jn. 2:3---"When they wanted wine...lit. wine had failed

Rom. 3:23---"Come short"

He had come out on the short end.

Principle:

There is pleasure in sin. Heb. 11:25 "seasonal"
The famine will follow.

Hollywood is filled with this. People who throw away the happiness of a home, life of usefulness for one moment of thrill.

Things cannot satisfy the heart. Psa. 23:1

1. "no man gave unto him"

The far country is a stranger to grace. Fine when you have money but not for the poor.

Wher were his friends now? Where were the merchants who took it?

Satan a hard taskmaster! (Young woman in hosp- al old beyond years--alcoholol.

When a fellow is broke, hungry, disappointed, far away---his thoughts turn to HOME.

IV. DELIBERATION--v.17

Beside himself to get away
Proud of himself for leaving
Came to himself...He began to THINK of his condition
and that he did not have to remain so. (If men would
sit down and think about eternity--flee to Christ.
Life is filled with luxury...diversions to keep us from
doing this. Amusement, entertainment...anything to take
our minds off God.
Memory of youth began to haunt him.

V. DECISION--v.18

"I will"...go will never save until you say this.
"I won't..is what we say when we reject the claim of Christ,
This was repentance.
Once it was "give me" now its "make me"

VI. DELIVERANCE--v.20-22

"He arose and came..Matt. 11:28
Scene...father did not say "I told you so.
"What do you want..
Robe-- proper covering for a son. Righteousness
Ring-- honor and affection...
Shoes --sonship..slaves went barefoot.
Calf-- a festive occasion.

VII. DELIGHT--v.23-24

This son thought he had had some good times in the
far country but never a feast like this. No feeling of
of guilt...blessing...joy
EVERYTHING HE HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR IN LIFE HE FOUND
IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE.

Hilltop--both are dead.

city-

①

The Fatherhood of God

Chas. Sharkey's father was pastor of a country parish in Ireland — for 40 yrs. He turned down big churches in big cities and settled for a lively life of a backwoods preacher.

Seeing this, his son (Chas.) determined to "be somebody" and he did. Oil Exec. to the Far East, college prof. consultant — books, conferences, famed Success! Then at 72 his father died.

"I followed the hearse down a country road to a country cemetery — the quiet end for a quiet man"

"Waiting For
The Mt. To
Move" ↓

ONE fine
Tribute his
father!

Symbols
of
Success

②

The church had been packed with people from everywhere who dropped everything to be there — to say goodbye to this golly man. Police escort not asked for.

More —
Successful?

Question: Who was the greater man? Who would cry or even attend my funeral. Answer:

He was — a new appreciation of my father! This morning let us seek to gain a new appreciation of our Heavenly Father.

Point: "Our Father who art in heaven"

Natural relationship —
as God of all men.

Acts 17: 28. "offspring"
γενεσθ

③

I. The Father Speaks

(Heb. 1:1)

In Gen. 1, the phrase "and God said" appears 9 times! God has something to say to people on earth! 2 lines of communication: ① Direct

Adam, Eve, Job, Noah, Abraham ② Written - Bible. "And God said to Abraham" Point:

Gen. 22 - Abraham's most difficult test - first use of Love in Bible - Abraham loved his son but loved God more! God loved Isaac more! (Heb. 11:17-19)

4

When God speaks to
men it is the voice of
authority - (Mark 3:11)
(Matt. 17:5 - "hear ye him.")

Home
school
church
1.
Jail!

— O.A.S. = voice of authority
↳ Big man, Big Voice, Big Switch!! }
Amateur - Dr. Pastor
teacher (Policeman)

II. The Father SEES (Matt. 6:4)

"The eyes of the Lord are
in every place beholding
the evil and the good"

Psa 139 (1 Jn. 3:20)

"God knoweth
all things"

Psa. 147:4

Stars:

Number

Names

From the fall of a raindrop
To the fall of an empire -
He sees all things everywhere
all the time. (McClain)

Don Provantia - Russian spy.

SUN = "a star of average brightness
and size" Webster

⑤

This is Father's Day
But Mother are
"Seers" too.

(1) Eyes in back of her
head - "Young man, I see
you" - stop that!

(2) Little Bird told her!
If I could have —
one less bird!

(3) Smoking "Corn silk"
behind the barn —
barn + breath - She knew!
If mothers + father "Seer"
So much more our
leaving father.

6

III The Father Seeker -

(Jn. 4:23)

The subject was Worship.

A. 2 Kinds:

1. Ignorant - Acts 17:23

2. Intelligent -

Worship was not a matter of place but of person. Worship - our

response to a God is, says and does.

Our heart is

"in tune" with God -

"Tuned up" are ready to value His presence among with us.

located at
Sally's -
Oregon

B. 2 Seekers:

⑦

① 1 Pet. 5: 8

② Luke 19: 10

NOT the Self-righteous
but the no-righteous
(SINNERS)

IV. The Father Saves - Isa.

"Look" - Num. 21: 8 45: 22

Anyone can look - ^{To} God.

On a snowy Sunday
morning in 1856 - a
Methodist Chapel - 12-15
people - Many couldn't get
there. An ~~old~~ ~~uneducated~~
lay preacher brought the
message from this verse.

"Anyone can look -
even a child -

"I looked at Him and ^{one} ~~fewer~~ ^{friend!}
He look at me and we were

25 Jan. 18:20

1. In Home
Lack of Parental
Discipline (Tanner)

2. Mom & Dad Play
Favorites - (Jacob
Esau)

3. Parents Do Not
Lead Their Children
Christ -
Drive to Ch. is
not lead them to
Christ.

4. Teach the the
Bible Source of
Ethics & Values

3

* If all men are born God's Sons
Why ask them to become something
they already are!

Spiritual Relationship

Sons. (John 1:12) (Col 3:26)

"For we are
all the children
of God by faith
in Christ
Jesus"
Gal. 3:26

If all men were the
"Sons" of God, they would
love Jesus Christ!

(John 8:58-42)
v. 44

1

He is the God of all. (physical life)

2

" " " Father of all
who believe on
Christ. (Spiritual life)

2 Cor 1:1-2
"Our Father
in the sky"

POINT:

I am acquainted with
many females - I am
the Father on only two!

Let us Examine
Several passages that
refer to "our Father"
who act in heaven.

4

I. THE FATHER SPEAKS - (Heb. 1:1)

God has always
communicated with the
people on this planet:

- (1) Adam & Eve
- (2) Job — Satan
- (3) Noah
- (4) Abraham

From direct to written
revelation - Bible
Testimonies

(1) Jesus - foot of bed
told me - going to get
well! What do you
think? (Change
your medication!)

(2) Spurgeon

"The Lord told me to
preach here tonight

(3) BCC. 12 y. old boy!
Do you believe in spiritual gifts?

How can I
see song
that
ain't
there!

Sights &
sounds
that
are not
there!

5

Will learn
1. home
2. church
3. Jail!!!

Two reminders about the Voice of God:

1. The Voice of authority -

He does not call a

Comm. Hee first -

NO dialogue!

He is always right.

(O.A.S = Voice of authority to me!) *Bishop NO SASSING! "Ponging" "Without the Seal I did!"*

2. The Voice of approval

(Matt. 3:17 - Matt. 17:5)

He did always those things that pleased God the Father - NO EXCEPTIONS!

IV

II. THE FATHER SAVES - (Isa. 45:22)

Spurgeon: - Salvation verse.

1. Josiah 2:9 - Salvation is of the Lord.

2. 1 Cor. 1:21 ... if pleased God

3. (1 Tim. 4:10 | 2 Tim. 1:9)

4. Numbers 21:8 - John 3:14-16

"cure for the bitten - behold! 'believe'!"

Anyone can look into a child's

Look that Saved!

(6)

"range throughout" =
the scope of the vision =
He sees all
everywhere
all the time

III. THE FATHER SEES -

(Matt. 6:4-6)

("2 Chron. 16:9 - "For the eyes of the Lord run to & fro throughout the whole earth..."")

Prov. 15:3

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good"
(ie all things everywhere all the time)

God has never had to say:

"I didn't know that

"It's news to me"

"Well, what do you know..."

He already knows -

Ps 139

Ever occur
to you that
nothing ever
occurs to
God - He
already
knows

⑦

This is Father's Day
but ~~the~~ mothers are
the ones who are
"all seeing"

(1) Eyes on back of her
head - "Guy man I
see you?" STOP...

(2) A little bird told
me...

(3) Smokey Coen said
behind bars (Rivy)
snake - how did
you know - See & Smell!

IV. The Father Seeks -

(John 4:23)

The subject is worship.
Men worship what
the value. Two parts
of worship: ignorant
and intelligent - Acts
17:23 / John 4:19-24

⑧

Worship is our
"adour response
to all that he is,
says and does."

John 4:20

The woman at the
well thought worship
at a place but Jesus
moved beyond that to
a higher place - a
person! (4:24) More
internal not just
external - a ritual.
Worship scene.

Rev. 5:14

Conclusion:

There are two "sacres"
after your eternal
soul - 1 Pet. 5:8

• be always vigilant...
for you every the devil...
like a prowling lion ready

①

The Fatherhood of God

God the Father is not a god father.

Sponsor
Guarantee
mafia

Norther is a god child A child of God! The Fatherhood of God

Intro

not a widely ~~understood~~ subject.

(Recent interview of missionary whose wife/child killed - then a Force - how can you serve a ~~god~~ who lets this happen?) Wrong attitude i.e. those who ignore God - then blame Him in times of tragedy. A Bible distinction:

(1) God is the God of all men ^{over whole Earth}

(Acts 17:28 - "offspring" = Natural Rep. Physical life)

(2) God is the Father of those who Receive His Son.

(A) John 1:12 - (B) Jn. 8:42 ³⁸⁻ if... all would love Him (Christ)

this Father's Day - "Our Father who Art in Heaven - rather than our father here on earth."

"The Fatherhood of God"

"FOCUS ON THE FATHER"... ...IN HEAVEN

"Our Father who ART in heaven..." ^{Do you} a prayer we learned to prayer AS young small children. But the universal fatherhood of God is a ^{universally} ~~misunderstood~~ phrase - Is it true that God is "our father - re

Universal =
universally
misunderstood

Over all people? Two versions

TEKVES

Emp on Nature

God of all men

the Father of those who Receive Christ

"DEESPRING"

YEVS

Physical Life

God =

Source of

all life -

human

animal

Plant!

Athen =

city of

Aristotle

PLATO

Socrates

(1) John 1:12 - asking... already

(2) John 8:38-44 - Q God

Satan = SPIRITUS MENTIS

were your father - love Jesus Christ His Son!

Point: (1) Natural Relationship =
all men God's "creatures." offspring

(Acts 17:28) (2) Spiritual Relationship

"Sons" - (Gal 3:26) "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (= Uios) "Sons" 5 words!

Several verbs speak of Father's Relationship to Human kind.

(2)

March

April

unheard of
thing not seen!

John 10: 15 32
17 36
18 37

25 38

29 10 of 5 42
30 10 of 5 42

unseen!

I. THE FATHER SPEAKS - (Heb. 1:1-2)

God spoke to Adam/Eve

Jesus Christ
God full
Revelation
Toucan

Job, Noah, Abraham - Direct

Revelations. Today, Written

Revelation - Bible.

unw
Open Bible
God speak
Close
Steps

“Lady in hosp.” I saw Jesus
foot of my bed? What about
that - you think? Change
your medication! (hallooation)

Spurgeon - Man God told me
to preach here tonight -

Spurgeon - He didn't tell me!

• A. The Voice of ^{Divine} Authority & Finality

God has the right to direct

us - does not need to consult

(Ezekiel) us - a committee - He is the

absolute Authority! (Mt 28:19)

(Dad - Big man, Big voice in 10:

Big switch! He spoke =

Lovey = voice of authority

(Barn whipping - no dialogue!)

By the way, must learn respect

Ex. 20
"voice
of God"

③

for authority - home, school, church - or learn in a special place - juil!!!

B. The Voice of ^{Divine} Approval
Matt. 3:17, 17:5

... "Fear Him"!

Elliott
Spitzer!!
He sees
our secrets!

II. THE FATHER Sees - (Matt. 6:4)

(2 Chron. 16:9) "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth..."

(Prov. 15:3) "The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good."

He sees everything, everywhere all the time! "all seeing God".

Did it every occur to you that nothing ever occurs to God - He already knows He sees - all things past, present, future (over)

(Heb. 4:13)

← (mothers)

I SPEAKS
II SEES

(4)

III THE FATHER Seeks (Jn. 4:23)

The subject is worship —
"2 Seekers" ascribing worth or value
to God — i.e. men
worship what they place
value upon.

Form/Ritual
over
H. Spirit...
Invitation
Hymn
First
Doxology
last =
war!

Men tend to ascribe worship to a place. (4:20)

Jesus moves beyond that
to a higher plane — worship
of a person. (4:24.) "keni"

Worship = our response to
God — "a worship" (over) →

Service = "check out"

"sleep" → "jump ground"

"Then people

drameth neighbor unto me...

mouth... hence me... hips

beath is far from me! (Mt. 15:8)

(Emp. on External | not internal)

① Ignorant — Acts 17:23

② Intelligent — Jn. 4:19-24

Niger
Falls

Baba
Handbook
Baba

2 Kinds
Worship

(5)

IV. THE FATHER SAVES (Isa. 45:22)

... "it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Cor. 1:21)

"God who hath saved us..." (2 Tim. 1:9)

TEXT: (Isa. 45:22)

(TITUS 3:5)

(1) "Look" - Numb. 21:8

In 3:14-16

"he saved us"

(2) "Me" - a personal invitation for a personal salvation - in a person - (Matt 11:28)

(3) "Saved" - Saved from what? (TITUS 3:5)

(4) "all" ... None Else" (Acts 4:12)

His way OR Wrong Way

MT. 7:13ff

Spurgeon's Conversion in Jan of 1850 - former fascination. Sunday storm - 12-15 people - Methodist Chapel - Preacher - Unlettered.

Thriv. Ty

Father Planned Eph 1

Spur Preached Eph 1:7

HS. Proclaim Eph 1:13/14

155 yrs ago

6

"I look at Him
He look at me
One forever

"Anyone can look - (Singing)
even a child - look
away to Him -
One said -

"I could have danced
all the way home -
wanted to tell somebody
everybody that Jesus
Saves" (Singing)

"John Edmonds"

EAST
Lynn

Thomas
Jackson

Dr. McClain

Bea the new
to one, Linda, Chandra
the stage and cross
the way in the
Dance. It is the
hand in the hand -

(1 Time 1/5)



The Fatherhood and

the
Father

8:16-18

Jn 20:21

②

Seeds -

Father

①

Speaks - Heb 1:1

③

Father

Sees

① Matt. 6:4-6

② Luke 15:20 (the Text)

④

Father Sees - Jn. 4:23

⑤

Father Saves - Jn 4:19-20

Revised
Outline

May - 5/16

①

The Fatherhood of God

My father has been dead for 20 ~~8~~ yrs. I still remember many things about him - birthday, ht, wt, favorite foods, ~~hobbies~~, radio programs etc. We have a spiritual father - God our Father about whom we all know a lot less than we care to admit. (Love | Creation | Jesus but limited!)

When the disciples "our Father" it was the prayer of a believer who enjoyed a personal relationship with Him. Scripture makes an impt distinction!!) Natural Relationship

Acts 17:28 "offspring" So our birds animals (2) Spiritual Relationship

("Sons" - if God when the Father of all in a Sp sense

John 1:12 = or. sense - Somewhat
we already are! (Gal. 3:26)

clothes
cars
guns

②

Let us EXAMINE several key words which speak of the Father's relationship to us:

I. THE FATHER SPEAKS - (Heb. 1:1)

God spoke to: (1) ADAM & EVE (2) JOB
(3) Satan (4) Noah (5) Abraham
— From Patriarchs to Prophets
God has communicated to man.
From Direct Revelation to Written Revelation — B.Ble.

God's
Son —

(Testimony — Jesus spoke to men
stood a foot of my head —
what do you think? Change your
medication!) (Man in Simpson's
Ch — "Lord told me to preach
tonight. Stranger — God said nothing
to me a month!")

A. God ^{the Voice of} Speaks With Authority.

He does not call a Committee or
Council Meeting — always Right
Voice needed home / school / ch.
If men do not learn respect for
Authority — go to jail — Jail!

3

B. The Voice of Approval
 (Matt. 3:17) (Matt. 17:5) (a mt.)
 God is pleased with Jesus.
 all sons who magnify Him.

River Mountain

Trinity

I SPEAKS

II. The Father Saves (ISA. 45:22)

Jan. 6, 1850 Meth. Chapel
 Sunday snowstorm - 15 people
 present - unlettered lay -
 preacher - this text:

"Anyone can look - even a
 child!" "I looked at Him
 He" at me - One
 Forever!

Jonah: "Salvation is of the Lord." 2:9

Words To Ponder: Text

① "Look" = Turn To in Faith Exercise

(Numbers 21:8) = Faith Test!

② John 3:14-16

③ "Me" - a personal invitation
(Matt. 11:28)

④ "Saved" - (Eph. 2:8 - Rom. 10:9-10
Titus 3:5)

⑤ "All" -

Manner a
Type of
chit. Job

④

⑤

"none else" none other
John 14:6 (Acts 4:12)
Your way = wrong way
His way or else!

C.S. Lewis - "Man's Search For
God - "Moses
Search for a cat!

I Speaks
II SAYS

III. THE FATHER Sanctifies (Jn. 10:36)

Context: Ref. to Jewish Magistrate
or judges who were
called "gods" i.e. God's
reps or agents who
acted for God in administering
justice in O.T.

If these men acting for God
in gov. affairs called "gods"
i.e. divinely appointed what so
strange about God's Divinely
appointed one called the
Son of God? God's Approval
of His Sons!

⑤

I Speaks
II Saves
III Sanctifies

IV. THE FATHER Sees - Matt. 6:4

God sees ~~every~~ everyone,
everything all the time -
"the eye of the Lord ... range
thru the whole earth ...

(2 Chron. 16:9)

Prov. 15:3 "The eye of the Lord
are in every place beholdy the
evil & the good."

What does He see?

God's knowledge is all-inclusive -
all things Past, Present, future

What God Never Says:

- "I didn't know that!"
- "It's news to me"
- "Well, what do you know!"
- "Did it ever occur to you that
nothing occurs to God - He already
knows - Omniscient!"

(Psa. 139)

- 6 1 Spoke 4 Sees
2 Sakes
3 Sanctifies

V. THE Father Seeks (John 4:23)

The subject is worship - or ascribing worth or value to God. Men worship what they highly value.

In 4:20 worship = place

In 4:24 worship = A person!

Worship = our response to God

"Worship Service" - "worth-ship"

"This people draweth near unto me ... mouth ... Honor me lips ... heart is far from me. (Mt. 15:8)

* ② Phil Gaby Sr.

Ch. on Sunday - Time of joy - worship!

① (Rev. 5:14)

"the Totally Worthy One"

"the chief end of man - To glorify God & enjoy Him forever"

Mt. 4:9
~~do~~

(1)

The Fatherhood of God

John Gotti died this week - early 60's. He died in prison - a famous Mafia criminal - a "godfather".

God the Father is not "godfather" - He is indeed the God of all men (Acts 17:28) (Natural relationship) But He is the Father of those who receive Christ (Jn 1:12,

Jn 1:12
if

John 8:38-44 If God were the Father of all men - all men would love Jesus Christ.

(2)

Heb. 11:35

Father's Day (1) Fathers on earth (2) Father in heaven

Also, comment on Bernhard death - why? If God...

Ephesians - Father in Every Chapter

(1)
Acts
12:2

James
Peter

2.

Focus on Eph. Father mentioned in every chapter.

I. God The Father Has Blessed Us - 1:3

Believers should not use the same yardstick ~~as~~ as non-believers to measure blessing (1) health, wealth, family, friends, job, comfort, security = "I am blessed" - In Scripture - saints were "blessed" with few or none of these! (Jesus) ^{For us}

(A) The "earthlies" = "I feel good, I have plenty, I am happy" = "I am blessed." ^{very little}

(B) The "heavenlies" = what we have in Christ

"We are family"!!

(1) Chosen - (Jn. 15:16) (2 Cor. 5:17) (1 Thes 4:13)

(2) Predestinated (v. 5)

(3) Adopted (v. 5)

(4) Accepted - v. 6

(5) Redeemed - v. 7 | Forgiveness - v. 7

(6) Inheritance - v. 11 (14)

(Rom. 8:16-17 - heirs | joint heirs)

(*)

Read recently Chas. Hardy's reflections of his walk to life

(3)

Hardy Story — a new appreciation of our Father!
So with the "hearing" blessings!

II. God The Father Is Accessible To US - 2:18

The world of Paul's day a world of religious/cultural walls, ferocious barriers — even temple.

Lim. ^{OR NO!} access. Now a new "Access code" — (Rom: 5:2) Heb. 4:16.

(1) God has no answering machine

(2) He is never busy

(3) Never have to wait for a personal rep.

(4) No "do not disturb" Sign

Door is open — Not closed while God is elsewhere — No. 9-5

(5) Never says call back at a better time — on turns us over to an assistant!

- * Boston's family — always available
- * Jerry Doty
- x Access Road

(4)

III

God the Father Is Worthy of True Worship - 3:14

Lesson:
She = a ~~ph~~
He = a ~~psm~~

... "The Son ~~is~~ cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father ... for the Father seeketh such to worship him...

(Jn. 4:22-24)

2 Seekers in the world re worship (1) the Devil - 1 Pet. 5:8

"as a prowling predator stalks its prey." (Matt. 4:9)

(2) Christ - Luke 19:10

"Worship me!"

To speak of God as worthy of worship seems strange but we live in strange days.

(1) Worship Secret 11 - show 12 - dull

We ascribe little "worth" to we do not "bow" ... in submission. Men worship what they value.

Past - Sun, Moon, stars, Sex, Stones / images

Today - celebrities, sports figures

(5)

Self - Children

"don't about"
"Hylolice"

"Age the world of entertainment
in our services" (cf. a Rock
Concert)

One day a casual attitude re
worship - even God Himself.
Ch. = showtime - let stand up a
cheer - give Jesus a big hand
a standing O!

In the Book of Acts - Our Church
Manual - the pulpit, the
preach of His Word - not dialogue
the center of evangelism & edification.

Rev. 4 | Rev 5 | Rev. 22
A Celestial Choir of True
Worshippers - Don't miss it -
get your ticket now!
(Excursion Story)

"you haven't
the happy in
Heaven"

IV. God the Father is the God
of All Men But the Father of
Believers Only - 4:6 (omit)
covered in the intro

(6)

The "all" is all believers.
Those who share His life -
eternal life. No race or
group has Exclusive rights to
God. All men are responsible
to God. Grammar: "all" is
"inacc." gender not neuter
Father of people not
rocks, trees & Pantheist &
New Ager's say. Proof Text: (Jn 8:44)

V. God the Father Should Receive Our Thanks, Not Our Complaints - 5:20

For all the seasons of life -
everyday = Thanks giving Day.
"An attitude of gratitude"

Jewish man's Prayer:

(1) Not a Gentile (2) Slave (3) Woman!

Chrysostom: ^{was} asked if he could
if he could give thanks for
all things - even Hell?

(7)

yes. Be thankful not there
or go there - he had
heard God's warning to
turn around.

Rom 8:28 - have even if
can't explain. ① Doug Packard

- ② Bowers - Paul
③ Co. Pastor Gyr. Olson
④ Marten Bonhag

God The Father Has Given Us ^{Gifts}
Money Cannot Buy
+ Others Cannot Give -

(6:23-24)

"4 Block Buster Blessings"

Peace - Love - Faith - Grace

Point: (Never knows true until Grace)

Men - never get rest of
soul until they get right
with God. (Mt. 11:28)

Rom. 5:1

Again chief - Son absolved
- never have peace the
matter of my Son resolved.

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