

SONSHIP

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- 2 Leaving behind the Dead Works – Walking in the Finished Works

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These two verses would appear to be in conflict. One implying that we are all sons - the other, only those led by the Spirit; in fact both (of course) are true! Just as the two boys in Luke 15 were both sons.

It all has to do with our legal standing on the one hand – and our experiential standing on the other. The legal standing is our salvation – or *relationship* with Father. (I'm in His Family!) The experiential is whether or not we develop real *friendship* with Father – (I'm His beloved Son – not just a child!).

In b) above, John exhorts us to take a long hard look at the kind of Love the Father has bestowed (honoured or awarded) upon us.

THE DEVIL'S MAIN OBJECTIVE IN THE LIVES OF BELIEVERS IS TO STOP THE ENCOUNTERING AND ACTING UPON THAT GREAT LOVE

If he can keep us from experiencing the fullness of that love, he can keep us in servitude. Someone in servitude is dependant upon another for most things in their lives.

Let us define Sonship. 2 Cor 6:18 You shall be my sons and daughters. This and the lead-up verses to it refer to the separating of ourselves from sin and living a holy life. It has everything to do with basic Christian Living. Sons and daughters. It has mainly to do with living a good 'earth' life, especially with regard to the way we relate to sinners; they simply see us as either male or female.

But go over to Galatians 3:28 we find there is neither male nor female! Now we are talking about how we relate to Father (in Christ) and our walking in the spirit realm. That is why in this particular teaching I refer to us all as sons – and will do from now on!

Gal 3:29 on..... tells us that we are 'heirs'. In this (historical) context only true sons become heirs, not daughters, not even sons who have yet to progress from the 'child' stage in their maturity

with God.

However, in Gal 4: 6 it is only the 'child at heart' in intimate friendship with his Father who receives the 'adoption of sonship' v5.

By the way, this is the only Scriptural 'adoption' in which you will ever be involved!* "But I thought I was 'adopted' into His family", do I hear you say? Well, that's what 'thought' does for us! It robs us of the Truth. No, you and I were chosen and begotten (born) into His Family, before the foundation of the world. You know the Scriptures! We were God's first intention, his only intention, not a second-choice thought!

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This is no 'parable' but an actual historical occurrence. "a certain man..."

v19 I am no more worthy to be called your son.....make me a servant

When the believer sins, IF he returns to the Father in confession of sin, the most likely expected outcome is one of shame, failure, loss of dignity and reduction in rank to that of a servant (at best). Indeed that is the prescription in most religious systems (churches) for the returning sinner.

But what happens in Luke 15? Not judgement but rather complete restoration! This son has restored to him everything he had before – but MUCH MORE, because now he is in love with his dad – so grateful he did not get his 'comeuppance' but rather the deep, deep love of a Father not holding his sons to account.

“WHEREFORE THOU ART NO MORE A SERVANT, BUT A SON; AND IF A SON, THEN AN HEIR OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST” Gal 4:1-7**

In Roman times (and the Apostle Paul) having come from Rome knew all about this, when a father perceived his son was mature enough to be brought into partnership with the running of the family estate, he was taken to the market square in the town and officially revealed to the public. The son was honoured and 'set in' by the Father to handle his business from now on.

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Let me tell you a wonderful story about a young man in India I know well.

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So, what should be the effect in our walk with Father who no longer wants us to be servants?

2 Leaving Behind the Dead Works - Walking in the Finished Works

Let us be quite clear. In the Bible there are only 2 Works we 'do for God'.

Either Dead Works or Finished Works

Dead Works are, 'what I do *for* God'!! Finished Works are, 'what I do *with* my Father'
Dead Works are a result of 'unbelief', having their roots lodged in lack of intimacy and friendship with the Father. (Heb 6, Luke 15)

Finished works are a result of having entered into Rest, through faith, believing, friendship and intimacy with Father.

Dead works are carried out in my flesh (soul). Sometimes they appear very good, especially in church!

Finished Works are 'walked in' (because they are spirit and therefore already complete) in the spirit.

Look at Heb 9:13-14

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purification of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The word 'serve' here is gr. *latreuo*. It's foremost meaning is one of worship, spiritual rather than physical work.

Look at the two types of Priest in Ezekiel 44. Two types of priest – one in the job for what he could selfishly milk from it – the others, there purely to minister unto God. The former were the Eli priesthood, the latter the Zadok. More on these two priest types next year.

The Eli Priesthood could: (in modern day parlance)

V11 be ministers; take charge of the church; serve communion; minister to the people (only)

The Zadok Priesthood could in addition:

V15, 16 have intimacy with God (friendship); minister to God; (sonship) stand at his table (provision)

Now look at something in V17 that only the Zadok priests were instructed to do:

They were to be clothed only with linen whilst ministering in the tabernacle inner courts. V17

They were not allowed to wear anything that would cause them to sweat. V18

The Eli priests could sweat as much as they liked! Why – because they were doing everything in the flesh anyway. All dead works. But the Zadok priests only 'walked in the spirit' (as far as they were able under the old covenant) and were not allowed to sweat – get into physical work. They had to remain in a state of Rest.

Zadok priests are the forerunners or archetypes of the Sons of God!

See what God thinks of his children doing dead (sweaty) works in Heb 4.

V3 For we which have believed (Zadok, sons of God) do enter into rest.....I have sworn in my

wrath (against the Eli children of God).....they shall not into my rest (that's the Father's presence) although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

V10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works as God did from his.

We shall never be adopted into sonship until we stop trying to ADD to the works that God has already finished.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained (prepared) that we should walk in them.

Works? They are all finished! Why do we try and add to them in our own strength and unbelief?

Let's decide from today – I am going to be a son, walking in the spirit, to walk in only these finished works.

Let's look at son number two in Luke 15.

The first son, burdened with sin and self-effort, expecting to be made a servant, accepts the his father's love and moves back in the house (where, by the way all work was done by servants). He now adores his father, doing only his will.

The second son - so typical of the 'religious, traditional, misinformed norm' genuinely believes he is pleasing his father by keeping all the rules, and working really hard. He regards his brother as scum, having brought such shame on the family name. In refusing to forgive him, his heart is so deceived he even pours scorn on his father for having him back, judging his dad for not giving him anything in return for all the work he has done. V's 28-32 But look a verse 31. ...”Son, thou art ever with me (this boy is going to Heaven!) and all that I have is thine.”

The saddest thing is that his refusal of intimacy robs him of his rest, his fellowship with his dad, and even his inheritance. The estate (read Kingdom) work is not advanced and others do not find the Father of Love through this worker. Heaven forbid that through my dead works I block others from finding the Father, perpetuating the lies about Him, circulated for centuries.

Let the Scripture speak as we end this lecture. Gal 4:1-7.

No more a servant. But placed (into a setting that is not naturally earned....Gr. Huiotesia) through my adoration of my Daddy.

*VE Vine from page 32 of his Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

“In Eph 1:5 they (believers) are said to have been foreordained unto ‘adoption as sons’ through Jesus Christ, RV. : the A.V., ‘adoption as sons’ is a mistranslation and misleading. God does not adopt believers as children; they are begotten as such by His Holy Spirit through faith. Adoption is a term involving the dignity of the relationship of believers as sons; it is not a putting into the family by spiritual birth, but a putting into the position of sons. “

** Of course, in our *attitude of heart* we are most certainly the Lord's and fellow believers' servants; but in our Heavenly standing of dignity and adoption we are first and foremost His Sons!

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SONSHIP Lesson 3

An understanding of 'what and who' God has made us to be, is vital if we are ever going to rise above the overbearing traditional doctrine of sin-consciousness. Most of us accept that our spirit-man has been made perfect in the process of redemption...but few go on to appropriate the fullness of salvation which the Lord Jesus accomplished for us.

1 MY SAVED SOUL

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

These are our key verses in this series of Sonship lectures.

They and many others demonstrate the juxtaposition between our experience of the Father's Love, and our ability to walk with, or be led by the Holy Spirit. Without both operating in combination, we cannot experience full Sonship as destined for us by God.

The composition of man as a triune being I am sure has been explained several times in this College, so it is not my intention to cover 'old ground' this evening. However, let us re-emphasise that when our spirit man experienced the legal reality of being 'saved' (when we asked Jesus to become our Saviour and Lord – and we became one with Him) our *experience* was that both our 'soul' and our 'body' initially at least, remained unchanged.

However, the finished Redemption that Christ achieved with His Work on the Cross and subsequent to it, clearly shows us that 'spirit salvation' was but a part of that finished work; without doubt, THE most important part – for without it, there is no way we could be in Heaven.

Please note: FINISHED.

We are not waiting for the Lord to 'finish' the work for us. No, He is waiting for us to allow that finished work to completely transform our lives! Remember: Transformation Supersedes Obedience.

Let us kick over another sacred 'traditional' cow! One of those lingering, "Grandma taught it – and we bought it" bondages; here it is:

"I CANNOT BE TOTALLY PERFECT THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN"

Well, that is NOT what the Bible teaches! Whom are we going to believe - Grandma or God?

Let the Bible speak! 1 Thes 5:22-23

Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now Wesley dared to agree with and preach this verse in the 18th Century, being cast out of his church for so doing. It was so cross-wires with what the traditional church was teaching – and still is today!

This is one of the most misinterpreted verses in the whole Bible. That is mainly because of three little words *added* by the KJV translators to 'help our understanding'. They have done just the opposite! Why then did they add them?

Well, we have to understand two things:

- the prevailing 'doctrine' of the 'religious system' at the time; and
- the level of revelation available to the translators back in the 17th Century grappling with the seeming incredulity of what was God was saying.

The status quo church teaching then was based on the Roman Catholic doctrine of absolution by human intermediary – the Priest. That is, my sins forgiven only through intervention of a 'sanctified' priest. Basically it was out of my hands; I needed someone to pray for me – or I was done for.

Thought: how many of those priests are in Hell (Hades) as we speak, together with their congregants who relied upon them (and their error) for salvation????

So let's look carefully at this verse. First of all Paul was not 'praying'; he was making a statement! Read the verse without the words in italics. Italicised words in the KJV are NOT in the original Greek or Hebrew text, but have been added by the translators; sometimes helpfully, other times not; as in this case!

Sorry to stand on the soapbox again, but actually this is another good reason for study using the KJV (not the NKJV); because only then can we see at a glance what has been added! There is not this vital distinction in the modernised versions. Worst still, sometimes the 'added' words *have been incorporated into the text*, causing us to believe an 'un-truth'.

Back to the verse:

'sanctified' Gr. *hagiazō* means to separate from the profound, (depths of sin) to declare sacred, to purify and cleanse externally and internally

'wholly' is Gr. *holoteles* – means 'perfect, complete in all respects'

'blameless' is Gr. *amemptos* – means blameless without censure – or publically declared righteous!

'coming' is Gr. *parousia* – means not just a single event but rather a period of someone's presence.

Parousia is also used of the coming Antichrist's diabolic and miserable reign of failure.

So what is this statement Paul is making? It is this:

If we will abstain from evil - and even the appearance of evil - then God will separate us from the depths (effects) of sin, declare us sacred, purify, cleanse, make perfect and complete in all respects, our whole spirit, whole soul, whole body, and preserve, declare us publically blameless in the season of the appearing of our Lord Jesus. (Joel's outpouring of the Former and Latter Rain – at the end of this age)

You may say, "all this sounds like a very special 'super' Christian"! That's right - now we are seeing the Sons.

One kicked-over sacred cow! Rather, we are the 'sacred'!

Let's finish in 1 Peter 1:2-9 to see how this is going to lead us into the glorious end-time Sonship we are heading towards. We will read the whole of this passage from the KJV to see the link between the Blood of Jesus Christ, our Living Hope of resurrection from the dead, the result of our faith, the salvation of our souls and the inheritance on earth the Lord has planned for us. Glory.

Yes GLORY. Have you thought about that? Adam lost the glory when he sinned and from that time death (in all its forms) was present on earth. Romans 3:23 say this: "For all have sinned and come short of the **glory** of God. You see, sin is the only thing that prevents the glory from being present all the time! Eradicate sin and the glory comes in!

Now what God wants to do is to get that Glory from the inside of you to manifest (be seen) on the outside. (Isaiah 60) But, most of the time that Glory is hidden because we have not allowed the salvation on the inside of us to change the 'corruption' that is in our soul and our body.

(Gr. *phthora* – corruption, bringing to a worse state of destruction until death finally takes place)

We keep sinning with our tongues, our minds; we do not walk in love with our brothers, we rob God of the tithes we owe Him. So the glory stays on the inside. It has to. It would kill us if it were to transfer realms from our spirit man to our physical man. We are triune beings.

Our main Scripture (above) talks about an inheritance that is awaiting us.

It is reserved for us
It is in heaven for us
It is incorruptible
It doesn't fade away
It is undefiled

It is only for the Sons of God who are to be revealed. Might I add that although this inheritance is reserved in heaven, it is designed to be used – not left there! We do not have to wait for it until we get to heaven. We already know that in heaven there is no problem with corruption, defilement or 'fading away'. These things are just not there! These chapters in Peter are not 'hereafter' teachings. They are uncovering teachings! Verse 5 is the same sentence as verse

4! It tells us this inheritance is for the Sons of God in ‘the last time.’ So why do most Christians just leave their inheritance sitting in Heaven?

I was speaking to a man recently who had been considering this. He had come to the conclusion that he was just not good enough (worthy) to be included as one of the Sons.

What was his problem? He was looking at his failings, and not what Christ had already made him to be. Really he was saying that the work of Redemption was not powerful enough to include him.

What, in reality, he was also saying was this: “The Blood of Christ is enough to make me fit for heaven, but not enough to make me fit for earth.” You see, he had applied the Blood to his spirit man – and of course that is **the** most important thing, because it guarantees we shall spend eternity in heaven. But he failed to see that waiting in Heaven, FOR HIS AND OUR USE, is the Blood of Christ, as fresh today as the day it was shed on earth. The Blood IS the Inheritance in verse 4!

Neither had he seen the truth of verse 13. that there is a special grace to be drawn upon for these days. That grace will cover all our human failings and endow us with God’s power to resist sin and the persecutions of men in this last time.

Just as I reached into Christ and allowed His Blood to cleanse my spirit man, so I need to reach into Christ (who is seated on the right hand of the Father in heaven – and if I allow him, seated on the throne of my heart) to allow that same blood (the inheritance) to cleanse my soul and my body. My body takes its orders from my soul – either to sin, or to walk in holiness. So if I can get my soul sanctified (separated) then my body just follows on in obedience. 1 Pet 1 : 9; 1 Pet 1: 22

So, what then is my experiential position? I am back in a sin-less Garden (Eden) and walking in exactly the same Glory as Adam and Eve walked in before they sinned. Wow!

You see this is the vital link between the Blood and the Glory. When I reach out and apply that inheritance blood, I am clean spirit, soul and body. Now watch the Glory flow! With it comes all of God’s Goodness. I am completely free of all sickness, disease, lack and have all of heaven’s reserve to distribute to others.

As I reach out and touch the sick they are all healed by the Glory. Money flows to me from the unsaved (Isaiah 60) as the end-time wealth transfer takes place. You see, in the months or years that lay ahead, perilous times are coming upon people. They have already started! The Sons of God will be the only ones with the answers! We will be speaking the Truth to them on a huge scale. They will be throwing their money at our feet – because we are the ones who have the answers to ALL their problems! But the slothful, sin loving Christians? They have no part in this.

This will result in the most effective evangelism yet seen on earth. You are I are the evangelists – the Glorious Sons of God!