

John 1:12-13
Steps to becoming a child of God
Rome Ga. 7-20-86
January 12, 2014

Subject: Becoming a child of God.

Theme: The way into the family of God.

Proposition: How have you entered the family of God? Examine your relationship to Him. Upon what is it based? Have you RECEIVED the Savior? Upon what Authority have you entered in? Have you put your trust in the all sufficient NAME of Jesus?

Perhaps 15 years ago, I spent a day in Paris France. We saw the whole city + climbed the Eifel Tower. Late in the day, we came to a famous cathedral that sat at the top of a flight of over 200 steps. I don't really remember the name of the cathedral (I think it was something French). By that time of day, we had already been to Notre Dame, which was conveniently located at ground level; I really had no interest in climbing those stairs . . . after all, when you got to the top, there was nowhere else to go but back down the steps. Another way of looking at it was – **200 steps up – and 200 steps down and I would be right back where I started.**

"STEPS THAT LEAD NOWHERE"

. "As finite creatures we somehow sense that our earthly life and eternal destiny are somehow bound up with our creator. Most religions of the world represent man's effort to reach up to God and become acceptable to Him. In China, for example, devout pilgrims ascend a sacred mountain called TAISHAN. They climb 7000 steps up its summit, first passing through the "middle gate" then through "heavens southern gate." Finally, they reach one of the most beautiful buildings in all of China- THE TEMPLE OF THE AZURE CLOUD. Here they offer sacrifices which the worshipers believe will gain God's favor. **Such effort represents great religious fervor - and futility, for it brings the devotee no closer to God than when he mounted the first step.** **By contrast**, Christianity begins with the Creator of heaven and earth reaching down to Man. In His holiness He is beyond the highest mountain peak, so far out of reach sinful man that only He Himself could span the gulf. And that is exactly what he did. DB Oct. 20 '83

READ **Jn. 1:12-13**

"SALVATION IS NOT SOMETHING WE ACHIEVE BUT SOMETHING WE RECEIVE.

I. THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A CHILD OF GOD

Reread **vv. 10-11**. Bring out meaning of the word received ["not" v. **11**]

From "LAMBANO" to receive from another.

There are **those who do not know** {v. **10**}

and **those who know but choose not to receive.**{**11.**}

AND those who Receive and through receiving they become THE CHILDREN OF GOD. They can receive because they have believed and this is tantamount to knowing

. . . Through knowing and believing we receive the POWER that we must have in order to overcome sin and our natural propensity for it.

"As many as recognize Him for what and who He is, the eternal, Living Word of God, God in The form Of Flesh, the revealer of all that Man needs to know of the everlasting God and the only true Light of Men , to these He gives **POWER** to become the CHILDREN of GOD.

POWER = *EXOUSIA* It involves all the actions and states needful so that we may become children of God and it removes all the obstacles in our way.

A. OBSTACLES TO OUR BECOMING CHILDREN OF GOD

1. OUR SIN

Rm. 3:23 " For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." ETC.

Rm. 6:23 " for the wages of sin [is not becoming a child of God] is DEATH"

THE WRATH OF GOD

RM. 1;18 " For the WRATH of GOD is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."

There are those who think that because God does not send fireballs from heaven every time a sinner sins that He is In some way **SLACK** in His application of Judgment but as we saw in;

II Pt. 3:9 " **God is not slack** concerning His promise as some men count slackness, BUT IS LONGSUFFERING toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Paul wrote and **warned the people of Rome** in;

Romans 2:4-5 that they were "**treasuring up for themselves wrath against the day of wrath** and the Righteous Judgment of God.

RECEIVING and BELIEVING on the NAME of Jesus enables (EMPOWERS) us to Escape the WRATH of GOD.

John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: **and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**

"turn here and read **Roman 5:8-9** "..... **We shall be saved from wrath through Him.** "

Even though **Romans 6:23** says **wages = death**, it also says that the "**Gift of God is Eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord**"

Receiving Christ Gives us the POWER to turn away the WRATH of GOD WHEN WE RECEIVE THE GIFT OF GOD WE BECOME HIS '**CHILDREN**'

JOHN'S term '**Children of God**' is a more comprehensive term than "**sons of God**" which Paul used so often. Our **son-ship has to do with our adoption** and hope of inheritance. Being **children of**

God involves the whole generation and process of our life in the Spirit, as being FROM and OF God, and **consequently our likeness to God.**"

MSNBC - Four panelists on "The Melissa Harris-Perry Show" on Dec. 29 ridiculed Romney's family Christmas card, which showed Romney and his wife, Ann, posing with their 22 grandchildren, including their newly adopted African-American grandson, Kieran James.

Four panelists on 'The Melissa Harris-Perry Show' mocked the Romney family Christmas Card on the Dec. 29 show: **'One of these things is not like the others, one of these things just isn't the same,'** actress Pia Glenn sang.

Read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/glenn-beck-calls-msnbc-host-apology-unnecessary-article-1.1568529#ixzz2qC04Qrit>

Paul communicated the **legal side** of rebirth in the term "sons of God"

John wants us to realize the **Mystical and Physical side** of our relationship to our heavenly father, that is that He has communicated life to us.

CHILDREN SHOULD BE LIKE THIER FATHER. And our father says that we should be walking in the light as He is in the light | Jn. 1:5-7

1Jn 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**

1Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1Jn 1:7 But if we **walk in the light, as he is in the light**, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

He says we should be **FREE FROM SIN** in | Jn. 3:9 and He says in Jn. 8:51 **WE WILL BE FREE FROM DEATH.**

1Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Joh 8:51 **Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.**

ARE YOU WALKING AS CHILDREN OF GOD? HAVE YOU RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR AND GOTTEN THE POWER TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD?

HAVE YOU BELIEVED IN THE NAME OF JESUS

HAVE YOU PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE NAME OF JESUS

re: the use of believing on the name according to Expos. " *pistuo eis tina*" is the favorite construction with John, and **emphasizes the object on which the faith rests.** Here that object is "*to onama auton*", (in His Name) the sum of all characteristic qualities which attach to the bearer of the name.

John 20;31 "But these things are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ the son of God; **and that believing ye might have LIFE THROUGH HIS NAME.**"

The name of God represents God and in many places **the Name of God is used as synonymous to God**. To believe on Christ's name means to believe on Him and to be saved through His name.

This paragraph(s) is from **L.S. Chafer III. p. 14-15**,"

"The attentive reader of the OT cannot have failed to observe how there runs through the writings which it contains a distinction between **God as He is in Himself - hidden, invisible, unsearchable, incomprehensible**; and **God as He is in relation to His Creatures. - revealed , manifested, declared**.

Sometimes this is conveyed very distinctly and unmistakably, as by the appearance of the **Angel of Jehovah**, who is both Himself Jehovah and yet distinct from Jehovah - a representation which can be rendered intelligible only on the supposition of a distinction between God as revealed and God as concealed.....

(also)**THE NAME OF GOD**- an expression **which indicates something distinct from God as God, but to which, nevertheless, personal and divine qualities are ascribed**; for men are **commanded to put their trust in God's name**, God serves men by His name, God puts His name in a person or place; and many other similar usages, which can be explained satisfactorily only on the supposition that the **name of God is God, not as He is in Himself, but as He is Revealed to men**.

Such also is the distinction made between the "**face**" of God and **His**" back", which Moses was permitted, in compliance with his request, to see. As the countenance is the index of the soul, the spiritual part so to speak, of the body, the face of God is His inner essential glory, His essence as a Spirit; And as the back part of a man is purely material, and subject to the scrutiny of the senses, so this is used by God to denote what of Him may be revealed, and by being revealed may be known by His creatures. What that is, He Himself expressly declares when, in the same connection, in answer to the prayer of Moses, "show me thy Glory", God says, " I will make all my goodness [properly - beauty, majesty] to pass before thee, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee:". **This was what Moses could see**, and this- the divine name or revelation of God, the beauty, the manifested perfection of God- He would make to pass before him; and it is of this that God speaks as His Back, **because it could be made known to man in contradistinction to His face, His essential Being, which no man could see and live...**" *end Chafer*.

In **Math. 10:22** Christ did not say that they will hate you because of Me but rather "**Math 10:22**" and ye shall be hated of all men **for my NAMES sake**"

Christ used **NAME** in **Math. 19:29** " and everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren or sisters, or father, or mother or wife, or children or lands for **my names sake**, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

The Apostles in Acts 5:41 " and they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they had been counted worthy to suffer shame for His **NAME**."

Works wrought in His **NAME** are done by His immediate power.:**Acts 16:18** "... and this she did many days. But Paul being grieved, turned and said to the spirit 'I command thee **in the Name of Jesus Christ**, to come out of her. And he came out the same hour."

Prayer in His **NAME** is as though Christ Himself spoke through the believer

Jn. 14:14 "If ye shall ask anything in my NAME , I will do it," **Jn. 16:23** ...Whatever ye shall ask my father in my NAME, He will give it to you."

YES there is Power in the NAME of Jesus and this POWER enables us to become the CHILDREN OF GOD

Rm. 10:13 " for whosoever shall call upon the NAME of the Lord shall be saved."

[WHERE THERE IS POWER THERE IS ABUSE OF SAME...**ACTS 19:11-17** " 7 SONS OF **SCEVA** wrongful appropriation of the name of Jesus.]

I Jn. 3:23 "and this is His commandment, **that we should believe on the NAME** of His son Jesus Christ.. ...WE'VE LOOKED AT THE **PROCESS OF BECOMING A CHILD OF GOD AND SEEN THAT IT IS REALLY ONLY ONE STEP, A STEP OF FAITH IN RECEIVING CHRIST. NOW LOOK FOR JUST A MOMENT AT:**

II. THE PARTICULARS OF BECOMING A CHILD OF GOD. V. 13

Read 13 We see three possibilities of birth into God's family, all three of which are negated.

1st we see that those born as CHILDREN OF GOD are not so born because of their national heritage (or lack of it). Family pedigree or Church affiliation do not guarantee salvation.

2nd "NOR YET of the will of the Flesh" e.g. Not as a result of sexual instinct.

3rd "NOR YET of the will of man" i.e. Not the product of human purpose.

BUT BORN OF GOD.

Examine your relationship to God this morning, upon what is it based? Are you trusting in your heritage or church or good works for your salvation? There is but one way and that is through TRUSTING IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

"YOU MUST ACCEPT IT. . "While Andrew Jackson was President of the United States, a man was given a court trial and condemned to die. **President Jackson offered to pardon him but the condemned man refused the pardon.** Prison authorities, the Attorney General of the United States, and others earnestly endeavored to convince the man to accept the pardon. They tried to impress upon him that it would not only spare his life, but that if he did not accept the pardon, it would be an insult to the president. The man persisted... The Attorney General consulted the Supreme Court, asking whether legal authorities could not force the man to receive the pardon. The court ruled that the pardon was merely a printed statement until the man accepted it. If he rejected the pardon, it remained printed matter. Have you RECEIVED the Pardon of GOD and escaped the Wrath of God for Sin? **DB Sept. 24, 1982**

Parting thought on waiting to late to do the right thing:

BIG Fly in the kitchen window, 2-3 weeks, trapped on screen behind window panes. Considered liberating him after a while. Never got around to it. Clint, bacon, smoke, window open. Fly stayed on the screen – ultimately he met a tragic end