

Mark 10:13-16 — “Jesus’ Special Love for Children!”

“Like most men who have been eminent and honored in the Church of Christ, they had a godly mother, who was often to take her children to her prayer-chamber, and with each separately to pray for the salvation of their souls. This exercise, which fulfilled her own responsibility, was moulding the character of her children, and most, if not all of them, rose up to call her blessed.” (John Angell James)

THESIS — Jesus has a special place for children in the plan of God. In this text, we understand *Jesus’ special love for children*.

I. The STRONG HOPE of Godly parents for their children (13a)**II. The SAD MISDIRECTION of the disciples about children (13b)****III. The SINCERE PASSION of Christ for children (14a)****IV. The SPECIAL PLACE Christ has for children (14b)****V. The STRIKING EXAMPLE children serve for all believers (15)**

- **5 ways children are a striking example for us:**
 1. helpless
 2. hopeful
 3. trusting
 4. dependent
 5. happy

VI. The SECURE AFFECTION Christ shows to all children (16)**1) BOYS and GIRLS! young children — listen up to a special message:**

1. Boys & Girls: Trust Jesus Today!
2. Boys & Girls: Read Your Bible Daily!
3. Boys & Girls: Pray to God Humbly!

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4. Boys & Girls: Obey God Fully!
5. Boys & Girls: Serve your Church Faithfully!

2) PARENTING IMPLICATIONS >>>

1. Parent: bring your child to Jesus **DAILY**. (13a)
2. Parent: beg Jesus to touch your child **SAVINGLY**. (13b)
3. Parent: permit the children to come to Jesus **OPENLY**. (14a)
4. Parent: remember God can save children **EARLY**. (14b)
5. Parent: emulate childlike faith **DEPENDENTLY**. (15)
6. Parent: trust God's tenderness **CONFIDENTLY**. (16)

3) CHURCH! a few pastoral thoughts:

1. invest in the future by investing in our *children*.
2. welcome & greet the kids — even by name!
3. engage them in conversation: pointing to Christ!
4. consider writing letters, cards to kids & take them out periodically.
5. pray for the kids & for parents & for families regularly.
6. pray for them to be useful for Christ; pray that some would become preachers, evangelists, missionaries. Pray for them to be holy men & women of God!

4) BOYS & GIRLS — hear this gospel invitation to you!

Pieces of wisdom for you who are boys & girls [edited & expanded from JC Ryle] —

- 1. REMEMBER GOD IS WATCHING YOU.** – In all your play, remember the eye and ear of God. He sees and hears everything. Dear children, say nothing you would not like God to hear. Do nothing you would not like God to see.
- 2. DON'T BE ANGRY, BE PATIENT & HUMBLE.** – In all your play, keep your temper. Be kind, cheerful, unselfish, and good-natured — even when you lose the game. Dear children, never fly into an angry passion. Whatever you play at, keep your temper.
- 3. DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE. WORK HARD & SERVE GOD.** – Do not neglect work because of play. Let all your play help you to learn better, and to be a better boy or girl, both at school and home. It is quite true that "all work and no play makes a dull boy." But I believe it is no less true, that "all play and no work makes a stupid, useless man!"
- 4. ONLY JESUS CAN GIVE YOU TRUE & LASTING HAPPINESS.** – In the last place, never forget, even in your play, that all true happiness comes from Christ. If you want to be happy, boys and girls, love Christ and make Him your chief Friend. Christ is the giver of light hearts and peaceful minds. The happiest child is the child who loves Christ most
- 5. OBEY YOUR DAD + MOM.** – Perhaps the greatest fruit of true salvation is your obeying your parents. Seek to serve God right where he has put you — at home with your parents, with your siblings, in your school, with your

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friends, and what your parents require of you. Obey them cheerfully. obey them immediately. Obey them fully. Obey them all the way. Obey them with a happy heart. Let your obedience to God show itself in your primary sphere of life: obeying your parents genuinely.

A word from Charles Spurgeon to parents on believing that God can save your young children.

Let us expect our children to know the Lord. Let us from the beginning mingle the name of Jesus with their A B C. Let them read their first lessons from the Bible. It is a remarkable thing that there is no book from which children learn to read so quickly as from the New Testament: there is a charm about that book which draws forth the infant mind. But let us never be guilty, as parents, of forgetting the religious training of our children; for if we do we may be guilty of the blood of their souls.

Another result is that the conversion of children is not expected in many of our churches and congregations. I mean, that they do not expect the children to be converted as children. The theory is that if we can impress youthful minds with principles which may, in after years, prove useful to them, we have done a great deal; but to convert children as children, and to regard them as being as much believers as their seniors, is regarded as absurd. To this supposed absurdity I cling with all my heart. I believe that of children is the kingdom of God, both on earth and in heaven.

Do not others expect from children more perfect conduct than they themselves exhibit? If a gracious child should lose his temper, or act wrongly in some trifling thing through forgetfulness, straightway he is condemned as a little hypocrite by those who are long way from being perfect themselves.

JC Ryle:

Dear children, remember what I say this night: If ever you would be happy in this evil world—you must give your hearts to Jesus Christ, and follow Him. Give Him the entire charge of your souls, and ask Him to be your Savior and your God; and then you will be happy. Have no will of your own, and only try to please Him; and then your life will be pleasant.

Oh, think how many children in the world have never been invited as you are!—how many boys and girls have never had the chance of being saved that you enjoy—how many, perhaps, would leap for joy, and walk in truth at once, if they were invited. Beloved children, take care. You, at least cannot say that you were not invited. Jesus invites you—the Bible invites you—I, the servant of Christ, invite you all tonight. Oh, come to Christ! Come, and be happy. Come and *walk in truth!*

Did you know?

HARVARD’S FOUNDING MISSION STATEMENT:

Founded in 1636, Harvard’s original stated purpose for its students was: “To be plainly instructed and consider well that the main end of your life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ...” One requirement of students was that “Everyone shall so exercise himself in reading the Scriptures twice a day that he shall be able to give an account of his proficiency therein.”

YALE: One of Yale’s requirements for its students read as follows: “Seeing that God is the giver of all wisdom, every student, besides his private and secret prayer, will be present morning and evening for public prayer.” And, Princeton’s founding statement was this: “Cursed is all learning that is contrary to the cross of Christ.”

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HOLY HOLY HOLY

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

JERUSALEM

See Him in Jerusalem	See him there upon the cross
Walking where the crowds are	Now no longer breathing
Once these streets had sung to Him	Dust that formed the watching crowds
Now they cry for murder	Takes the blood of Jesus
Such a frail and lonely man	Feel the earth is shaking now
Holding up the heavy cross	See the veil is split in two
See Him walking in Jerusalem	And he stood before the wrath of God
On the road to save us	Shielding sinners with his blood
See him there upon the hill	See the empty tomb today
Hear the scorn and laughter	Death could not contain him
Silent as a lamb he waits	Once the servant of the world
Praying to the father	Now in victory reigning
See the king who made the sun	Lift your voices to the one
And the moon and shining stars	Who is seated on the throne
Let the soldiers hold and nail him down	See him in the new Jerusalem
So that he could save them	Praise the one who saved us

Jesus blesses the babies/little children. This is *one* (of the many!) Scriptural supports that babies who die go to heaven. I believe that there's a clear, compelling case that we can compile from Scripture to show that all babies and infants who die all go to heaven.

- I. INFANTS BELONG TO GOD IN A SPECIAL WAY. (Ezekiel 16:21)
- II. JESUS BLESSES ONLY BELIEVERS & HE BLESSED THE LITTLE CHILDREN (Mark 10:13-16)
- III. PEOPLE GO TO HELL FOR REJECTING CHRIST & THEY'RE JUDGED FOR THE DEEDS THEY HAVE DONE (Rev. 21:8)
- IV. IT IS WELL WITH DEAD CHILDREN (2 Kings 4:26)
- V. THE COMPASSIONATE CHARACTER OF GOD! (Psalm 145:8-17)
- VI. THE LOVE AND NATURE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! (Matt 18:1-3, vv.14)
- VII. GOD REFERS TO CHILDREN WHO ARE MURDERED AS 'INNOCENTS' (Jer 19:4)
- VIII. THERE ARE INNUMERABLE MULTITUDES OF WORSHIPERS IN HEAVEN! (Rev 7:9)
- IX. THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO THE LITTLE CHILDREN (Luke 18:15)
- X. DAVID KNEW THAT HE WOULD SEE HIS DEAD INFANT AGAIN IN THE NEXT LIFE! (2 Sam 12:23)
- XI. THE BIBLE EXPLICITLY TEACHES THAT BABIES GO TO HEAVEN (Job 3:16-19)

- ★ "All who die in infancy are doubtless saved, but they are saved by grace." (Charles Hodge)
- ★ I am convinced that the souls of all departed infants whatever are with God in glory. And I think my belief warranted by an authority which cannot err – Matt. 18:14." (Augustus Toplady)
- ★ "Nor can I doubt, in my private judgment, that [infants] are included in the election of grace. Perhaps those who die in infancy, are the exceeding great multitude of all people, nations, and languages mentioned (Rev 7.9)." (John Newton)