

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 8- Children, Fathers, and Young Men

63. Part 4

WAOY Friday/Monday 08/3-6/07; WOSM Wednesday 12/28/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to *continue* to explore what John taught about fathers, children, and young men. So, let's turn in our Bibles to **1John 2:12-14** and read those verses again together:

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.

13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Now yesterday, I was going over why John wrote he wrote here in verse 12 by showing you how that we are saved not just so that we can go to heaven- but we are saved for the very reason that John wrote at the end of verse 12- "**for his name's sake**".

Now don't get me wrong here- saved people are going to Heaven and Heaven is going to be wonderful and something that we should all look forward to- but please hear me- we are saved for more than that. There is a more important reason why we are saved than just to experience bliss in Heaven.

You and I were saved for the purpose of knowing God with the knowledge that God has of Himself- which is the highest knowledge that there is and so that we can love God with the same love that God has for Himself- which is the highest love that there is- so that we may

glorify God to the extent that He deserves to be glorified- or what John says here in verse 12- **“for His Name’s sake”!**

So, the reason why God saved lost souls is so that the lost souls who have been gloriously saved by Mercy and Grace will know God and love God and worship God in a way that only saved people can know and love and worship God to the fullest extent. And by giving us the privilege to know Him in the same way that He knows Himself and by giving us the honor of loving Him to the same degree that He loves Himself- we are the able then to give to God the highest praise and the highest adoration which he so richly deserves.

So, it is therefore true that only saved people can know God like this and only saved people can love God like this and only saved people can give to God this high praise that He deserves. So, since God is all about magnifying Himself in the earth- Salvation brings to God the maximum glory and that is why He saved us.

This is what John meant when he wrote at the end of verse 12 that the reason our sins have been forgiven us is **“for his names sake”**.

“Well, wait a minute, Brother Blair- are you trying to tell me that God saved me in order to bring glory to Himself?” That is exactly what I am telling you. *“Well, do you mean that Salvation is not all about me?”* Yep- that is what Scripture declares. It isn’t all about you- in fact nothing that God does in the earth is about us- it is all about bringing Glory and Honor and Praise to Himself.

And if you stop and think about it- doesn’t that make perfect sense? I mean I realize that it might wound our pride to think about this- but who should God glorify if not Himself- His Creation which is less lovely than He is?

The adoration or love for or worship of or devotion to anything that God made and not to God alone is the classic definition of idolatry. We are told in Scripture to love God more than we love anything or anyone else. We are to live our lives- not for our own glory- but for His Glory alone. He is better; He is higher; and He is more worthy of worship than anything that He has made. In fact- it is not just that God is *more* worthy- nothing is worthy of worship at all beside God. So, John was teaching a very old and very profound Truth about why God does what He does in the earth. So, I want to turn to **Isaiah 43:6&7:**

6 "I will say to the north, 'Give *them* up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold *them*

**back.' Bring My sons from afar And My daughters from the ends of the earth,
7 Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My
glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made."**

So, the only reason that *any* of us are alive is so that God will be glorified. We are not alive so that we can have fun and do what we want to and live our lives as we see fit. That is *not* why God made us- because that is selfish abandon; that is self-centeredness; that is thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to.

We are not blessed with good health so that we can take our strong healthy bodies and sin with them. God didn't bless us financially so that we could lavish our wealth on ourselves. We do not acquire knowledge about God and the things of God so that we can feel important and build up our arrogance and pride.

These are improper usages of the things that God does in the earth. We are blessed with healthy bodies for one reason- so that with our healthy bodies we may give glory to God. We are blessed financially so that we may Glorify God. We acquire knowledge about God so that we may glorify God.

And some people have been chosen to glorify God in that way and we thank God for that. But still others have been chosen by God to glorify Him through being blind and by being born cripple and with only one arm or one leg or one eye and some have been chosen by God to bring glory to Him by being faithful with little or no money and of having only a basic understanding of Divine Truth.

It is false to think that only strong healthy and wealthy people can bring glory to God. That is just not true. Indeed, God does and can bless and heal whom He chooses but for the most part- wealth and health and having all that this life affords causes us to be *less* spiritual; *less* godly; and to bring shame and reproach to God.

So, our main goal in life is not to be rich. Our main goal is not to be healed every time we get sick. Our main goal is not to have leer jet and mansions and an abundance of this world's goods. Our main goal in life should be to glorify God and by being faithful to God in whatever state God has Sovereignly chosen for us to walk in.

Read with me what God says about Himself in **Isaiah 43:10-21:**

10 "You are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And My servant whom I have

chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.

11 "I, even I, am the Lord, And there is no savior besides Me.

12 "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange *god* among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And I am God.

13 "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"

14 Thus says the Lord your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, "For your sake I have sent to Babylon, And will bring them all down as fugitives, Even the Chaldeans, into the ships in which they rejoice.

15 "I am the Lord, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King."

16 Thus says the Lord, Who makes a way through the sea And a path through the mighty waters,

17 Who brings forth the chariot and the horse, The army and the mighty man (They will lie down together *and* not rise again; They have been quenched *and* extinguished like a wick):

18 "Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past.

19 "Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.

20 "The beasts of the field will glorify Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I have given waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My chosen people.

21 "The people whom I formed for Myself Will declare My praise.

So, I repeat what I said earlier- *everything* that God has done in the earth- He has done for His *Own* Glory or for His Name's Sake or for His Own Good Pleasure- including Salvation.

So, John is faithful to remind the children of this first century Church here in verse 12 what Salvation and forgiveness is all about- it is all about Gods' Glory.

So, I ask you- do you bring glory to God? Do you glorify God in the way that He *deserves* to be glorified? Does your life bring honor to God or does your life bring honor to yourself? And when is the last time that you or anyone that you knew got real excited about the knowledge of God? How long has it been since you or your children found something

wonderful in God's Word and came and told you about it? I know that we get excited about money and getting a new car- and we get real excited when our 401k goes up- but when did the knowledge of God actually thrill your heart?

How long has it been since you actually prayed that you could learn to love God more? What are you reading and studying that will help you to learn how to love God more? Do you love your wife or your husband or your job or your home more than you love God? Does it grieve you that your love for God is not growing?

And precisely how do you prove that you do love God? Do you obey God, or do you rebel against Him? Are God's ways foremost in your life? Do you actually love to do what God says or is obeying God a real drag on your life? Isn't obeying what God says really the only way that we can prove that we love Him?

So, think about this scenario with me for just a moment. You have a person who does not have any desire to love God. He doesn't do anything to learn anything about God. He doesn't care to live in accordance with God's ways and he won't give anything to the cause of Jesus Christ. This man loves himself and he wants more and more stuff so that he can horde things and feel satisfied with all that his own labor has brought him. When this man is faced with changing something so that he can come into submission to God's Word- he simply sloughs it off and does what is right in his own eyes.

Obviously, this man is not saved and that much is pretty clear to most people until we add the fact that he loves his wife, and he is good provider and he loves his children and he doesn't drink or smoke and he lives a moral life.

Now for some reason- many people at this point would be confused. This man obviously is not saved because of his lack of love for God and his lack of pursuit about the things of God- he does not care to bring any glory to God at all- and that is true because of just what Scripture says about him. Turn with me to **1 Corinthians 2:14:**

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

This man may be what we would call a "good" man- but we must

understand, beloved that this kind of “human goodness” isn’t good enough. First of all- the Bible clearly says that no one is good but God- but in our way of speaking- we do call many people good for some type of morality that they demonstrate. And keep in mind that we do have the power in and of ourselves to become somewhat moral.

Many lost people have “cleaned up their act” so to speak. Many people who know nothing about Jesus Christ have gotten off drugs; they have quit smoking; stopped drinking and stopped going to bars, etc. I personally know some Hare Krishnas who got off drugs and do great work with poor people.

But these people are not saved. That is because Christianity is not about us adopting some human “moral code.” Mormons are very moral people- but they do not believe in the Jesus of the Bible and that absolutely eliminates them from being saved.

John reminds us here in verse 12 that being saved and having our sins forgiven us is all about the glory of God- not about us doing nice things and being nice people- and as I have already told you only saved people can bring glory to God- so being saved is all about God doing in us and through and for us what we *cannot* do for ourselves.

You can quit smoking by putting your mind to it. Millions of people have done it. You can become wealthy- at least here in the United States- simply by working harder than other people and being responsible. You can stop drinking based upon nothing more than your own will power- but you cannot save yourself. And you cannot forgive your own sins. And you cannot make yourself fit for heaven by and through your own human ability. You cannot even love God unless and until He gives you that ability. You cannot even desire to serve God unless God grants you that desire.

So, John reminds the children of this Church just how miraculous and how wonderful Salvation really is by telling them that God saved us- not because of anything that we have done- but God saved us **for His name’s sake**.

Well, I have to stop right here- but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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