

# The Ideal Posterity

Psalm 45:16-17

*Halifax: 16 May 2010*

## Introduction and Review

Today we come to our fourth and final sermon on Psalm 45.

- I took up this Psalm because it is a wedding Psalm, and weddings are very much on our mind as a congregation with three of them over a two month period.

In the first message,

- I showed you that this Psalm was probably written on the occasion of the wedding of King Joram to Athaliah.
  - Even though they turned out to be one of the most ungodly couples in the house of David,
    - there were high hopes at the time of their wedding because it involved the bringing together of Judah and Israel (Athaliah was the daughter of King Ahab and Jezebel of Israel) and Tyre (she was the granddaughter of the priest of Tyre).
  - The hope of the godly at this wedding,
    - including the hope of godly King Jehoshaphat (who was Joram's father),
      - was that God's kingdom of righteousness would advance.
    - That was the hope that they should have had at the wedding of a son of David to whom the promise of an everlasting kingdom of righteousness had been made.
      - It is always right for the godly to trust in God's promises and to seek their fulfilment.
        - I might add that if Jehoshaphat had been more diligent about seeking the promises of God to David,
          - he would not have allowed Joram to marry Athaliah because of the idolatry of her and her family...
            - but Jehoshaphat, though godly, is characterised by blindness in his association with Ahab.
  - But despite the failings of Joram,
    - the hope of this Psalm in its description of an ideal bridegroom and an ideal bride with an ideal posterity is a very real hope...a very sure hope...
      - because it is a hope that is based on the sure promise of God to David.
    - This Psalm looks beyond the immediate situation in the house of David to the Messiah Himself,
      - The ancient Jews fully acknowledged this.

- And if there is any doubt that this Psalm is about Christ, the scripture itself settles the question in the first chapter of Hebrews.
  - In Hebrews 1:8, Psalm 45:6 (“Your throne O God is forever and ever) to prove that Jesus Christ is the very Son of God.
- This wonderful Psalm is about our Lord Jesus Christ who joins Himself to His elect people as His bride and sanctifies them so that they may live in His father’s house for ever as spotless and pure and fully forgiven.
  - There is truly an ideal bridegroom—Jesus Christ Himself...
  - And an ideal bride—the church that He saves and brings to perfection.
    - We are to sing this Psalm of Him—praising Him for His excellence...

But we have also seen that this Psalm has much to say about our own marriages.

- It is not by accident that the Lord uses the analogy of marriage to speak of Christ’s relationship with the church.
  - The relationship Christ has to the church is the same kind of relationship that a husband ought to have to his wife...
    - He is to love her even as Christ loved the Church, cherishing her as his own flesh,
      - and she is to come joyfully to live in her husband’s household, leaving her old ways to become one with him.
  - It is a beautiful relationship that every marriage ought to aim to imitate, and inasmuch as they do, a couple will find true blessing and happiness.

That is what we looked at in the introductory message...

- In the second sermon, we looked at the ideal groom and saw how He leads in self-sacrificial love.
- In the third message, we looked at the ideal bride...and how she responds to Him with glad submission...
- and today we will look at the ideal posterity—the offspring of that bride and groom.
  - And as with the bride, they are not ideal on their own, but they are ideal because Christ completes His work in them so that they are, in time, made perfect in holiness.
  - Our focus is on the last two verses where this is spoken of.
    - Psalm 45:16-17: Instead of Your fathers shall be Your sons, Whom You shall make princes in all the earth. I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever.

In these verses, we see that:

**I. Something truly marvellous happens when the ideal bridegroom is united in marriage to the ideal bride—an ideal posterity is brought forth!**

A. Their sons are said to take the place of their fathers!

1. These sons are said to be princes in all the earth.

- They come forth as leaders who take their place in God's glorious kingdom.
- They take the place of their fathers, riding forth in this fallen world with their sword for truth, humility, and righteousness...
  - truth in a world that is filled with lies about God and man and that even denies God as God.
  - humility in a world that supposes it can get along without God,
  - righteousness, in a world where there is hatred and abuse and oppression,
    - where men abandon their children...
    - where the love that God calls us to is unknown.

2. As we saw back in verse 3-5,

- Jesus Christ is the one who rides forth with His sword.
  - His sword is His word that pierces the hearts of God's enemies so that their sin is laid bare...
    - and they are either die and are cast away into Hell...
    - or they die in order that they may arise through the gospel to new attain forgiveness and new life.
  - or that they die to self, crushed by the conviction of sin, and arise through the gospel to new life in Christ.
- Here are princes that come forth from Christ to ride forth in the world with His sword—
  - They forth into this fallen world for the cause of truth, humility, and righteousness, living out the truth wherever they go in their callings.

3. Oh brothers and sisters, this is truly a marvellous thing!

- God enables us to bring forth children who serve Him in His kingdom!
  - a. When He first created us, He told us that we had been made in His image.
    - That meant that we were created to be a true reflection of His glory—
      - to look like Him—
      - to live together in the same way that He has always lived—Father, Son and Holy Spirit!
    - And if that were not enough, He did even more...

- He blessed us and told us to be fruitful and multiply—to fill the earth with His image bearers!
  - Not only were we made in His image, but we were actually given the ability to bring forth image bearers through marriage!
    - A whole race of people who would shine forth the glory of God as His image, living together in perfect holiness and righteousness!
- b. How ashamed Adam and Eve were when they rebelled!
- Now the image bearers no longer showed forth the glory of God, but rather corruption and sin...
    - How they covered themselves with shame—even their reproductive organs, knowing that now they would only bring forth the image of God corrupted.
- c. But when God redeemed Abraham,
- He blessed him, promising to make him holy and without blame, to pardon his sins and to renew His image in him.
    - And He not only promised to bless Abraham, but also his descendents after him!
    - He promised that he would bring forth children who would also be renewed in His image—
      - children that would be blessed and would be a blessing in all the earth.
      - Ultimately, He promised to bring forth Christ through Him.
  - But even after Christ came, the promise of God is still to those who believe and to their children.
    - God, by His grace, enables us to bring forth children that will inherit His kingdom—
      - children who will take their place as princes in His glorious kingdom of righteousness—
        - riding forth for truth, humility, and righteousness in this fallen world and establishing homes that are anointed with the Holy Spirit, the One who unites us to God in joyful communion.

TRANS> Isn't this a most excellent hope?

- That you, even though you are fallen, by God's grace can bring forth sons that will be princes in God's kingdom...
- those who are renewed in His image and who go forth in His service in their respective generations!

- and you children and youth—that you can be those princes in God’s kingdom and take the place of your parents and of their parents before them.
  - What a glorious hope!
    - The kingdom of God goes on.
    - Surely you want to see this hope realised!
  - But this hope leads to another hope...
- B. The hope that we will make the name of Christ to be remembered in all generations.
1. That is what we all sing in verse 17 as God’s people when we sing this Psalm:
    - “I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations...”
    - You see that the first person is used... “**I** will do this.”
      - “**I**”, the one who am singing this Psalm...
        - “**I**”, the whole church united to Christ her head who leads her in singing praise to God.
        - “**I**”, the church in all generations, united to Christ, so that His praise continues in every generation.
  2. Our goal, as the collective church in all ages, is that Christ’s name would be known...
    - a. Christ, the One we began to sing about in verse 1 when we, the collective church, said, with united voice,
      - Ps 45:1: “My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the king. My tongue is the pen of a ready writer...”
      - And then we proceed to sing of the excellence of Christ.
      - And then at the end of the psalm,
        - we say this in verse 17:
          - “I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations.”
          - We, the church of Jesus in all ages united to Him, continue to make His name remembered from generation to generation.
    - b. And what does it mean to make His name to be remembered?
      - A name is what is known about you...
        - in the case of Christ, it is what is revealed about Him—
        - now in this age, so gloriously revealed in the gospel!
      - Here is the One who left the glories of heaven to come to earth and redeem a miserable, fallen, sinful people!

- Here is the One who loves the beautiful image of God so much that He humbled Himself to bear our sins so that we might be renewed in the image of God.
- Here is the One who loves righteousness and hates iniquity so that He casts the wicked to eternal judgement and completely cleanses His people from all their sin.
  - He is the One who shows us what the Father is like—how He loves and how He serves and how He and the Father live...
- We who have been redeemed love to proclaim His name in every generation...we love to make Him known...
  - and we love the very thought that there should be a generation after us to proclaim His name—
    - and a generation after that and another after that until the end of the world!

TRANS> This is the glorious hope that is presented in this Psalm...

- but there is yet more...
  - Not only is it that we shall have descendents after us to take our place in God's righteous kingdom...
  - Not only is it that we, the collective church, will be able to cause Christ's name to be remembered in every generation,
  - But we see thirdly that the world will respond to the gospel!
    - Verse 17 says,

C. "Therefore, the people shall praise Christ forever and ever!"

1. The word "people" is plural and may be translated "peoples."
  - The idea here is that all the nations of the earth that were scattered at Babel will be brought together to praise the Lord.
    - Not only will all generations praise Him, but all peoples!
      - Some from every tribe, tongue, and nation.
  - Consider what a remarkable statement this was in the time it was written.
    - At this time the kingdom of God scarcely extended beyond the borders of Judah,
      - yet God has promised that through Abraham's seed, and through David's seed, that all the families of the earth would be blessed.
    - These statements are found all through the Bible,
      - and they are quite remarkable prophecies.

TRANS> And you see what it is that causes the nations to turn to Christ and to become His worshippers...

2. It is the result of our sons going forth from one generation to the next as princes in the kingdom of God.
  - They ride forth with the sword of the gospel for truth, humility and righteousness,
    - and by the grace of Christ and the power of the Spirit, the enemies of God are pierced with the sword of the word and become the worshippers of Christ!
  - The word *praise* in verse 17—in the phrase, “therefore the peoples shall praise you,”
    - is the word *yaw-daw'* (יָדָוּ) that we frequently run into in the psalms.
    - It means to confess!
      - As our sons go forth into all the earth, the peoples of the nations come to confess the Lord as the Lord and God and Redeemer.
        - They are humbled to the dust by their sins and they turn to Him with earnestness for salvation.
        - They confess Him as their Lord and Saviour and are baptised in His name.
        - They join with us in the praises of Christ our Saviour, and continue in His house, praising Him forever and ever...
          - They are made permanent residents of His house, filled with the Spirit of God,
          - They become, as Galatians says, the sons of Abraham and heirs of the promise through faith in Jesus Christ.

TRANS> All peoples—all generations—always, for Jesus Christ!

- This is the glorious hope we have as the church united to Jesus Christ.
- This is our vision as a congregation because this is vision of the whole church of Jesus Christ in every age...
  - We are not only concerned for the present generation,
    - but we yearn to bring forth sons who will be princes in the earth for Jesus Christ,
      - promoting His glory so that the peoples of the earth will praise Him forever and ever.
- And now I want you to see how all this comes about.
  - I mean in particular,

## II. How does it come about that we bring forth sons who are princes in God's kingdom?

A. It comes about by the grace of God.

1. Note that in verse 16 & 17, we do not have a *command* to bring forth sons who are princes.

- It is rather a statement in this inspired composition (which comes with all authority from God) that this will happen.
  - v. 16: "Instead of Your fathers shall be Your sons whom You shall make princes in all the earth."
- It is not just a wish.
  - It is an *affirmation* that sons will come forth to serve in place of the patriarchs who served God before us in their generations.

2. But to whom is this affirmation spoken?

- It is clearly spoken to our Lord Jesus Christ, the ideal bridegroom.
  - a. The bride was addressed in verses 10-15, but in verse 16, the gender changes back to the masculine.
    - You cannot see this in the English translation, but it is clear in the Hebrew.
      - The bridegroom is told that His sons will take the place of his fathers in the kingdom as princes in all the earth!
    - Ultimately, this is the promise to Jesus,
      - and ultimately it is fulfilled in every generation as God has promised.
        - There will never be a generation that does not have a people to praise the Lord.
  - b. But understand that these children are brought forth to Christ through the union of Christ with His bride.
    - It is a little confusing because the sons become part of the bride, but they come forth through the union of the bride with Jesus Christ.
    - Just as man does not bring forth children to fill the earth without a wife, so Christ does not do so apart from His bride, the church.
      - He goes out with His church into all the earth to call the nations to repent and believe the gospel.
    - And, even more to the specific point here,
      - He blesses godly couples who live in union with Him as their bridegroom with godly descendents.



- It is as those husbands and wives are united to Christ their husband that they bring forth sons and daughters for God's kingdom.
  - But without Christ, they can only bring forth sons and daughters of corruption.
3. This is exactly what our gracious Lord has promised...
- a. He promised it to Abraham when He said,
- Genesis 17:6-7: "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.
  - Abraham, united to Christ promised, would bring forth children of righteousness to fill God's righteous kingdom in their respective generations.
  - You can see how closely this promise to Abraham parallels with what is affirmed to the bridegroom in Psalm 45.
    - You have the promise that his descendents will be kings or princes in all the earth...
    - You have the promise that God will be a God to them even as He is a God to Abraham!
      - It is a promise of a godly offspring who will praise God and lead others to praise Him too.
- b. This promise is realised by those in God's covenant who keep His covenant.
- Psalm 103:16-18 contrasts the wilting flower to God's everlasting mercy:
    - Psalm 103:16-18: "*As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them.*"
    - What a contrast!
      - It is the mercy of God that must look to and rely upon to cause righteousness to extend to our children.
- c. This same promise is renewed by Peter on the day that the Holy Spirit was first poured out on the church after Christ went into heaven...
- To those who are about to enter God's kingdom through faith in Jesus,
    - Peter declares:
      - Acts 2:39: For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.

- What promise is he talking about?
  - The promise of forgiveness and of the Holy Spirit.
  - It is a promise that extends to us and to our children, just as it extended to Abraham and his children.
  - It is the promise of God and the working of His Spirit that will cause our children to be princes in the earth for God.

TRANS> And so you see that the affirmation is certain that Christ, united to His bride, will bring forth sons to serve the cause of Christ in every generation...

- And this promise actually finds root in individual couples who are united to Christ and by His grace bring forth children for His kingdom.
  - This does not mean that every child born to Christian parents will be faithful.
    - There are many even among the godly, like David, who transgress God's covenant and forfeit the promise for themselves.
    - Yet, the promise of God to bless the descendents of His people remains.
      - And it is in this promise that we must trust when we yearn for our descendents to come forth as princes in service to God.
      - The Lord wants us to look to Him in earnest, trusting prayer for this.
        - To the church collectively, the promise cannot fail—
          - Even if individual families do not always receive the blessing of godly offspring, they are part of the church (the bride of Christ) which always brings forth children of righteousness corporately.
          - Even those like David whose children reject the way can still be among the most useful servants in the kingdom...
            - but let those who have sons and daughters embrace the promise God, endeavouring to live in union with Christ as parents that they might bring forth children for Him.
- Of course, we who love Christ, desire that our own descendents will serve Him.
  - So what might we do in order that we might be fruitful?

B. We will bring forth children of righteousness, as Christian couples, as we live in union with Christ.

- By that, I refer to what I spoke about last week of the ideal bride.
  - She comes into her husband's house and she conforms to His ways.
    - She submits to Him, obeying Him, living in His house according to His way which is the way of truth, humility and righteousness.
- It is as we make ourselves one with Christ that we bring forth children for Him.

- Obviously, if we commit adultery with the world and go after other lovers, the children we bring forth will not be his children, but children of corruption.
    - This is true even of congregations...
      - as they are chaste and pure and remain devoted to Christ, they bring forth children of righteousness,
        - but if they depart from Christ, they bring forth children of iniquity.
    - Just look around and you can see it...
      - Congregations and denominations that were once faithful to Christ are now filled with unbelievers.
        - They have brought forth children of unbelief who are not princes riding forth for truth, humility and righteousness,
          - but they are slaves to lies, pride, and sin.
  - But let us now consider how we as individual couples can bring forth children of righteousness by the grace of God...
    - the grace that works in us and in our children to make us fruitful.
1. First, let me show you a number of things that snare Christian parents and keep them from bringing forth godly seed.
    - a. Snare number 1: they do not themselves live in the union that God has called them to live in with each other as husband and wife.
      - In Malachi 2, the LORD complains at the husbands of His people because they have dealt treacherously with their wives...
        - not keeping the covenant of marriage...
        - and what is especially pertinent to our subject is what He says in verse 15 about why He makes husbands and wives one...
          - He says,
            - “and why one? He seeks a godly offspring!”
      - The point is clear.
        - God calls husbands and wives to be one, in part, that they may have a godly offspring.
          - If they do not, He often withdraws His blessing from them.
      - Even Abraham, in his very effort to bring forth a godly seed, violated the covenant of marriage in taking Hagar and brought forth Ishmael.
        - So also David committed adultery and the consequences were a divided household with ungodly sons and daughters.

- Husbands and wives who are not faithful to each other are not faithful to Christ... and there are consequences.
- b. Snare number 2: couples lose sight of the excellence of the Christ.
- What I mean is, that we grow dull and lose our love for him—our first love.
    - This is what happened to the church at Ephesus according to Jesus' letter to them in Revelation.
      - You will recall that He threatens to take away their lampstand as a result if they do not repent.
      - If their lampstand is taken away, the gospel will be lost in their midst and their descendents will not inherit the kingdom.
  - So it is for individual couples.
    - If you grow cold to Christ and His glorious gospel...
      - If it means very little to you that your sins are forgiven and that you are given new life in His house as His bride,
        - it will be very difficult for you to convince your children to be His disciples.
        - Even though you might still keep all the rules and follow all the forms of a Christian walk,
          - they will see the shallowness of it and have little interest in following Christ.
      - Each week, the Lord calls us to renew our gratitude for what He has done for us as we come together as a Christian church around His word and sacrament.
        - See that you do that lest your love grow cold and the Lord remove His lampstand from your household.
- c. Snare number 3: couples fall into despair
- When their children are born, they are full of hope and yearn that they will be godly.
    - But then as the years go by, they see the sin in their children and there are two ways to respond...
      - to throw up their hands in despair and give up...
      - or to lift up their hands in prayer and cry out to the Lord for help!
  - It is at such times that you either hold on to the promised of God the way Jacob did when his name was changed to Israel and he said,

- “I will not let you go unless you bless me,” and he prevailed with God...
- or you will be like Eli when he saw that his sons were cursed and said,
  - 1 Sam 3:18: "It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him."
  - Eli should rather have gotten on his knees and pled for his sons the way Jacob did!
    - He was a parent who give up his sons because of despair.
- You either meet your difficulties with your children with faith and earnest prayer,
  - or you meet them with despair.

d. Snare number 4: sentimentalism...

- I mean, sentimentalism as a philosophy...
  - when parents suppose that everything in the world *ought* to be a certain way and that their children *ought* to be sweet and that they *ought* not to ever have to suffer.
    - And when the children are not sweet, they deny that their children have sinned...
      - They make excuses to explain their sin... that they did not mean it—that they are tired—that they have been provoked...
      - And instead of calling them to repentance, they teach them to make excuses,
        - Instead of chastening them, they teach them to deny that they have sinned.
          - and the sinful hearts of the children are quite ready to embrace this lie to their own destruction.
  - And when their children suffer, the sentimental parent resents it.
    - Instead of helping their children bear their infirmities with confidence that God’s hand is using it to teach them,
      - they lavish their children with the kind of pity that says, “this ought not to be!”
    - At its core, it is really a pity that shakes a fist at God for allowing such a state of affairs.
      - And the sinful hearts of their children are quite ready to embrace the pity for themselves and develop the same resentment toward God.
      - Sadly, they learn quite well from their parents.

- e. Snare number 5 is distraction.
- This is the couple that does not notice the weeds that are growing up in the lives of their children...
    - nor do they take the time that is needed to listen to their children, to understand them, and to nurture them.
  - One sort of distracted parent is the one that is caught up with all their projects and their career or their hobbies or even with helping everybody outside the family...
    - The other sort is the one who chooses to ignore the weeds that are growing up in their child...because they don't want to deal with it.
  - Such parents only address their children when problems have gotten big.
    - They are not attentive to observe and to notice when trouble first begins to arise.
      - Instead of correcting an attitude that might have been easily corrected by prayer and a little encouragement,
        - they are forever having to chasten their children for much more serious offenses.
  - Parents, please, let me urge you to deal with matters before they grow big.
    - You should not have to chasten your children all the time.
    - If you do, you are not dealing with problems soon enough and you are not getting the roots.
      - When the roots are dealt with, it is a long time before the weed shows up again—
      - You will save yourself a lot of time and trouble if you will pay more attention to sin...
        - It is painful to observe the distracted parent...
          - you are always wanting to say to them, “didn't you see that?”
- f. Snare number 6 is legalism.
- This is the parent who keeps God's law and hates every minute of it.
    - All the rules are observed and followed, but there is no love for God and no joy and no love for Christ.
    - To use the garden illustration, the weeds are all dealt with constantly, but acid is poured on them—acid that destroys the good plants.

- All joy and love that might encourage and nurture a child is invisible...
- Expressions of love and appreciation are few and far between.
  - Instead there are hard expressions and lots of irritation.
  - There is a spirit of judgement for sin, but not a spirit of identification with sin.
    - There is such a difference in a parent who comes to his children as a fellow sinner, with compassion,
      - and one who seems to be completely blind to his own sin (which the children can see) and comes to them with irritation and impatience.
- This is a problem that is all too common in reformed congregations.
  - Total depravity is understood, but instead of total depravity leading one to a richer fuller understanding of the incredible love and mercy and patience of Christ,
    - it leads to a critical attitude toward everyone who doesn't understand total depravity...
  - And in household relationships, instead of love and tenderness,
    - there are a lot of harsh words and angry glares.
      - There is a love of rules, but there is not much love for people.
      - There is a love of duty, but there are no words of appreciation and encouragement.
      - There is a love of being right, but there is no love for tenderness.

TRANS> That list is just suggestive—there are many other things that can be said. But...

2. Now let's consider what parents are like who obtain God's promises regarding their children.
  - a. First, I want you to see from our text that it is the one who yearns for God to be praised!
    - The great desire we present to God in singing this Psalm is that we would have sons who are princes in all the earth **in order that** Jesus' great name might be known **in order that** He might be praised among the nations.
    - Do you see that?
      - It is not just that we want our children to be saved...
      - It is that we want Jesus to be known and praised and delighted in!

- We have been gripped by the glory of the Lord and His salvation and we yearn for others to see it and to know it.
  - This love for Christ is contagious!
    - A parent with this love for the gospel will be talking about it in a very natural, uncontrived way, to His children.
    - He will be encouraging them and motivating and correcting them because of his love for Christ.
- b. Second, I want you to understand that because godly parents yearn for their children to know Christ and to praise Him,
- they are diligent in prayer for and with their children.
    - I have already spoken of Jacob and how he prayed earnestly for his household...
    - We may also think of Paul and how he prayed for his spiritual children whom he had begotten by the gospel.
- c. And third, such parents will also be continually sowing the word in their lives...
- not just correcting their children,
    - but talking to them about beautiful living for the glory of God in imitation of Christ and His love...
    - and speaking about the glory of God and the great things He has done.
      - They will speak of loving God when they sit down and when they rise up and when they walk by the way.
- d. And fourth, godly parents will appreciate their children as individuals.
- They recognise that each one is unique with gifts and interests and struggles, and they will want to get to know each one...
    - They enjoy getting to know each one...
      - and they encourage them in their service to God in accordance with who they are...
    - Instead of trying to force them into a mould that does not fit, they apply the word to them as individuals,
      - delighting in their differences rather than resenting them.
        - We can learn a great deal about this from looking at Christ and how He relates to His disciples who were so very diverse...
          - He does not press them all to talk as much as Peter or to be as quiet as those who seem to never speak...
          - He works with each of them as individuals.



- e. Fifth, godly parents will expect weeds to appear in the lives of their children...
  - They will keep a vigilant watch to that they can catch them before they get too big and deeply rooted.
    - Rather than denying the weeds or ignoring them or getting irritated by them, they will look at it as just a necessary part of parenting.
  - They will lead their children to Christ with their sins to seek His forgiveness and His grace...
    - They will teach their children and lead them to live in the joy of complete forgiveness.
    - Like Job, they will constantly bring them to the Lord for forgiveness by the sacrifice that He has appointed to take away our sins.
  
- f. Sixth, godly parents will adorn the gospel by actually living in the love and joy that characterises God's house.
  - We have seen this described in Psalm 45:7 where the bridegroom is said to be anointed with the oil of gladness, which we saw speaks of the Spirit...
    - whose fruit is love and joy and peace and patience and kindness and goodness and self-control.
      - This is delightful fruit.
        - and when children live in a home that is filled with these fruits by the grace of God, they can hardly help but delight in it!
  - The truth is that too often our homes are not filled with this kind of fruit.
    - And this is where we need come to our dear bridegroom and ask Him to pour the oil of gladness on us that we might live beautifully in His household as His bride...
      - and as we do, we will be a fruitful bride who will bring forth children for Him.
      - And this brings us around to the main point...
        - We must be united to Christ as a faithful bride, living in His house according to His way if we would bring forth children of righteousness in His kingdom!

**Conclusion: But do not get lost in individualism...**

- Recognise that there is individual application, but do not lose sight of the big picture.

The promise of sons of righteousness is to Christ and His bride as a whole.

- The promise cannot fail because Christ cannot fail!
  - As we are joined to Him, whether we are married or not, we are part of this fruit bearing bride who brings forth children for Him who lead the world to praise God from generation to generation.
  
- And now at the end, I want to say something especially to you children...
  - Children, surely you want this!
    - Surely you want to be filled with the fullness of love for Christ and of His Spirit and salvation so that you can live for His glory.
    - You have an opportunity while you are young to cultivate godliness and Christian character so that you will be equipped to serve Him.
      - What joy will be yours if you do!
        - Do not allow attitudes and habits to eat away at your strength.
        - Yearn for the grace of God in Jesus Christ that you may live for Him.