

# THE GREAT BLESSING OF BEING A CHILD OF GOD

## I. "9/11"

Luke 13:1-5, Psalm 46 – Inner peace from God, and world peace through Jesus Christ

## II. OUR SALVATION IS NOT YET COMPLETE

A. We aren't fully saved, and those already in heaven aren't fully saved yet either.

B. There's both the spiritual and physical elements of our salvation. Our own salvation, as well as all believers from all time, will be completed at the coming of Christ and the rapture. Then we will all be glorified - spirit, soul and body. 1 Peter 1:5, 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

## III. GOD GREATLY LOVES US – 1 John 3:1

A. "*How great a love*" - "*What kind of love.*" This love that God has for us is a different, unique, special, unheard of, out of the ordinary kind of love. This love is not a worldly, fleshly love, but an agape love - a spiritual, supernatural and godly kind of love.

B. This love was bestowed on us, lavished on us. It is the kind of love that we did not deserve, but that which was freely given to us. It is what God determined and decided, just because He wanted to. "*Not of the will of man, but of God.*" 1 John 1:12

C. Believers were "*foreknown*" by God. Before the world was made, God had His heart set on you. God loved you, and was looking forward to the time when He would save you, and show you His great love. Romans 8:29-30, 2 Timothy 1:8-10. God foreknew you, called you (was working in your life when you were unsaved), justified you and then will glorify you.

## IV. GOD GREATLY LOVES US IN THAT HE MADE US HIS CHILDREN – 1 John 3:1

A. As a Christian, you are God's child. We are talking about God being your Father in a spiritual, supernatural and heavenly way. God is unique, powerful, wise, loving, sovereign, just, merciful, forgiving, patient, and loving, and has wonderful plans for your life.

B. "*Who am I?*" The fact that you are God's child gives you identity. People do all kinds of things to be someone, to be special or to be unique. But the fact that you are God's child means you have identity, and that you are very special, very unique and very important.

C. Because you are God's child, then you have a special relationship with Him. Your Father cares for you, loves you, protects you and provides for you. He talks to you, leads you, and gives you what is good. He thinks about you, and will never leave you. Matthew 6, Psalm 139

- D. You need to see yourself as a child of God, and then respond to Him in the right way.
- Honor your Father. Love and respect Him. 1 Peter 2:17
  - Read your Father's Word, and believe it. Psalm 119:1-8
  - Listen to your Father, and learn from Him. Hebrews 12:4-11
  - Trust your Father at all times. Psalm 62:8
  - Obey your Father – do what He says. John 12:49-50

V. THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE – 1 John 3:1

A. The world does not know you because they don't know your Father; they are not His children, and therefore don't have a relationship with Him.

B. 1 John 3:1 - children of God. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - new creatures in Christ. Ephesians 1:1 - saints. Acts 5:14 - believers. Acts 6:7 - disciples. Acts 11:26 – Christians. 1 Corinthians 6:19 - temples of the Spirit. Philippians 1:1 - slaves. Philippians 3:20 - citizens of heaven. We are positively and radically different than unbelievers, and therefore they see that we are different. 1 Peter 4:1-5

C. This world isn't our home. We're just pilgrims in progress, making our way to the promised land. *“Abraham was looking for the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”* Hebrews 11:10, 13-16

VI. WHEN JESUS CHRIST APPEARS, THEN YOU WILL BE LIKE HIM!!! – 1 John 3:2

At Christ's coming, when you are raptured, you will be glorified, you will receive a brand new body, a body that is like your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ – 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

WE HAVE RECEIVED A SPIRIT OF ADOPTION AS SONS  
BY WHICH WE CRY OUT, “*ABBA FATHER.*”  
THE SPIRIT HIMSELF TESTIFIES WITH OUR SPIRIT  
THAT WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD.

Romans 8:15-16

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Where do you think this country is going? What helps you to trust Him no matter what happens?
3. How do you see that God loves you? Are there times when you question God's love for you? Why?
4. How have you tried to find identity apart from Jesus Christ? In what ways?
5. What does it mean to be a child of God? Why is it so important to see yourself as God's child?
6. Have you ever sensed in your relationships with unbelievers, that they just don't know you? How?
7. What do you think that it means to be like Jesus Christ? Are you looking forward to this?