

3-24-2024 Sunday Sermon Message

Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16

Text: Ephesians 2:12-19

Title: The **Greatest Blessing of Being Born into the World and Becoming a Family Member of God the Creator**

The Apostle Paul said to the members of the church in Ephesus, where Gentiles like us are gathered, "**You are the family of God.**" The word "family of God" testifies that Jehovah God, who created the heavens and the earth, is their Father.

If so, they already believe and know that God is the Father. In His Last Prayer, Jesus spoke of what it means to know God the Father:

**"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."(John 17:3)**

The fact that the Ephesians became part of the family of God means that they knew the Father, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom the Father sent. At the same time, he is saying that they have already received everlasting life. In other words, they became sons of God the Creator.

There was the first man in the Bible who became the Son of God. The Bible says that he was the first man, Adam:

**".....Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God."(Luke 3:38)**

When Adam was created, God formed him from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, making him a living soul (Genesis 2:7). He was created as the Son of God because He gave Him the breath of life from God. But after he sinned, he was expelled from the Garden of Eden and could no longer eat from the tree of life (Genesis 3:24)

However, God, who did not create all things in vain, saw that the thoughts and imaginations of people's hearts continued to do evil for a thousand years, so He did not kill them all, but chose one man, Noah, and after a thousand years, chose Abram, called him, and finally sent God the Word, who was His only begotten Son, who created the heavens and the earth together in the beginning, into the sinful world in the likeness of Adam, and put Him on the cross to take away the sin of the world from Adam and spread to the whole world, pouring out all the water and blood, and becoming a sin offering for the people of the whole world.

God made shed the blood of His only begotten Son because it was not the blood of animals, but the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God, that could remove all the sins that were deeply rooted in the genes of all people because of Adam's sin. Jesus was speaking to the hypocrites of his day who considered themselves righteous law-keepers about the sins that were ingrained in their consciences:

**"And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.<sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,<sup>22</sup> Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:<sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."(Mark 7:20-23)**

The Apostle Paul testified that only the blood of Christ Jesus can take away all filthy sins from man:

**"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:<sup>14</sup> How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"(Hebrews 9:13-14)**

We can understand what Jesus meant when he said that to know the Father, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom He has sent, is eternal life. In other words, the only way to receive eternal life is to realize the power of God who sent Jesus Christ and His blood shed by His death on the cross, and to believe in Him and receive Him.

Because of this, the Apostle John testified of the only way to become sons of God and receive eternal life:

**"He came unto his own, and his own received him not.<sup>12</sup> But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:<sup>13</sup> Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."(John 1:11-13)**

The Apostle John testified that those who were born into the world biologically according to the will of the flesh receive eternal life and are born again by the Holy Spirit. Through this new birth, the breath of life that God breathed into Adam's nostrils is given the right to become the Son of God like the first man, Adam, by receiving the Holy Spirit, which is the breath of life, through faith in Jesus Christ, who came as the last Adam.

The Apostle Peter also testified of man's regeneration:

**"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.<sup>24</sup> For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:<sup>25</sup> But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."(1 Peter 1:23-25)**

This is why the Apostle Paul preached that the gospel of Christ, which is the incorruptible seed that gives eternal life to those who believe in Jesus Christ

and makes them part of the family of God, is the incorruptible seed that gives life:

**"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;<sup>2</sup> By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.<sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;<sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:<sup>5</sup> And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:."(1 Corinthians 15:1-5)**

Those who become God's children and members of God's family through faith in the gospel of Christ become the bride of Christ Jesus in the family of God and become members of the body of Christ. Even though they are insignificant members, those who are members will not be left behind in the great tribulation, but will be sent to heaven before the tribulation.

The members of the church, which is the body of Christ, who will be raptured to heaven, will stand at the judgment seat of Christ and receive the reward according to what they have done between good and evil, and after marrying Christ at the marriage ceremony of the Lamb, they will come down to earth with Christ at the end of the great tribulation and receive the glory of reigning with Christ as kings and priests as they leave their minas in the millennial kingdom.

The Apostle Paul exhorted the Corinthian church members who were waiting for the rapture:

**"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."(1 Corinthians 15:58)**

**Amen! Hallelujah!**