

Behold, The Sons of God

December 23, 2007

Message Title "Behold the Sons of God"

by Pastor Gerald Mandrell

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1 John 3:1-9

3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that **we should be called the sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, **now are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

5 And ye know that **he was manifested to take away our sins**; and in him is no sin.

6 Whosoever **abideth in him sinneth not**: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: **he that doeth righteousness is righteous**, even as he is righteous.

8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested**, that he might **destroy the works of the devil**.

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

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- We celebrate during this time of year the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- Many of us get confused about the real reason and meaning of the season. Even though the story of His birth gives illustrations of wise men seeking for Him and others bearing gifts for Him, it does not mandate this as a time of gift giving.

- Many of times we allow the influence of the world to affect us in every fashion, even to the extent of dictating our worship.

- I believe that putting a lot of emphasis on gift giving during this season, which has led to the creation of Santa Claus and other fairy tales, has caused many of us to forget the mission and importance of Jesus' birth into this world.

- Some of you are so busy trying to get the right gift until you have forgotten and forsaken the true gift-giver. Yes, sad to say, some are spending their tithe and offering for gifts, literally offering that which belongs to God to the god of this world.

- Now, you see why commercialism is so great among us; it takes the emphasis off of Jesus and places the importance upon us.

- So, briefly today, I want to help you to put emphasis back onto what is really important. Let's take a look at the real reason for Jesus' birth into this world.

- John, the disciple who had a very special relationship with Jesus, is the author of this epistle. He is noted as the disciple whom Jesus loved; he is noted as lying in Jesus' bosom during the institution of the Lord's Supper; he was in Jesus' inner circle of three, Peter, James, and John; he was the bother of James; he was the only disciple that died of natural causes; and he was the writer of the Book of Revelation.

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- Being a man of wisdom and compassion, John writes this epistle to encourage the saints that were expelled from the synagogues and were challenged by idolatry and paganism to return to their former life and to deny Christ.

- He set the principles in place of the importance of Jesus; his mission; his stand against idolatry and anti-Christ; and he placed emphasis on love within the body of Christ and personal holiness.

- Therefore, in today's text, I want to show you some purposes for the birth of Jesus and how it impacts the world.

- Number one, He was born to take away our sins. (v.5) Yes, He was born to die as a sacrifice for our sins.

- He removed sin from the believer, making him righteous in the sight of God. The blood of animals only covered our sins, leaving the consciousness of those sins intact, but Jesus' blood washed us free from those sins, removing the impending guilt associated with them.

- Therefore, the believer becomes sinless as He accepts Christ. With his acceptance of Christ, the seed of the word of the Gospel is planted within his soul, empowering change in his inner man.(v.9)

- This is our second point; He empowers us to live a victorious life free from sin, by planting a seed, changing our nature from within us.

- Now, we have something within us that help keep us from sinning. We have a seed of righteousness and holiness. Just as with any seed, everything that each plant becomes is determined by what is in the seed. Therefore, we must allow the seed of God's word to remain vibrant in our heart.

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- Thirdly, He was born to destroy the works of the Devil. (v.8) Satan's rebellion and man's transgression of the law of God has led to chaotic living that is perversely and adverse to the will of God.
- We destroy Satan's work by living righteously. Our lives are to imitate the very life of Christ. Being born-again empowers us to do the works of Christ on earth, such as, healing the sick, raising the dead, saving the lost, and fully redeeming mankind and empowering people to live a spiritually productive life.
- Number 4, Jesus was born to restore us back to son-ship with God. (v.1) Paul emphasis this in:

Gal 4:4-6

⁴ But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

⁵ To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

⁶ And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

- As sons, we have restored access to the blessings and power of the Kingdom of God. This is fostered by a special Father-Son relationship that we gain with God.
- Prior to this, the best we could ever become was servants. But, servants are not privy to the inner workings of the Master. Look at:

John 8:34-36

³⁴ Jesus answered them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**

³⁵ **And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.**

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36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

And

John 15:14-15

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

- Servanthood is not a place of prominence. Jesus refers to it in this passage as a result of sin.

- Therefore, He came to change our level of relationship with the Father. He wants us to live at an endeared level of relationship and not a low level.

- Therefore, in closing, I want to declare to you that in 2008, we shall see the Sons of God being manifested. This shall be a year of the saints.

- This is not just a year of financial prosperity, but a year of power prosperity. The power and influence of the Church shall be manifested as the glory of God shall be revealed in you.

- Therefore, you must allow your focus to remain on God at the risk of being disliked, because you refuse to conform to the ways of this world.

- Behold, the Sons of God.