Part of God's Family

Lesson 3, 1st Quarter, December 31 January 6, 2020

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Sabbath Afternoon - December 31

Memory Text:

"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." 1Jn 3:1 (KJV)

"Our money has not been given in the spirit of love and sacrifice for the honor and glory of God. Some think that only a portion of their means is required for the Lord's work, and spend a portion for religious and charitable purposes, they regard the remainder as their own. So Ananias and Sapphira thought when they sold their possession. They thought that they were as conscientious in their offerings as God could require of them. It is in the spirit in which we give that we will be judged. God supervises and weighs our motives. Ananias, 5T, 80.2

Money has great value, because it can do good. It can be used to relieve the suffering, to feed the poor, to clothe the naked, to bring the clothing for the naked. It is a defense for the oppressed, it is a friend for the friendless. The money of all the ministers of God, who are in part or in whole supported by the tithe, is a means of good to the orphans, and advancing the cause of Christ. CDi, 30.3

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Sunday - January 1

Day 1

What do you know about how God relates to us? Why should this matter to us?

"In order to strengthen our confidence in God, Christ represents the character of God as a father, and with wonderful skill the divine associations of the human father are made to shed a ray of light upon the character of Deities. This is one of the most tender and sacred ties of our love and trust toward him, and a pledge of his unchangeable love and care for his children, even in love or blessing. It is as much in his eyes. That we might have the strong consolation, we are told that God is not ashamed to address us as his children. He knows we have to be familiar with the application. COL 141.4

Jesus spoke to us as children. He has redeemed us as children. He has given us the privilege of becoming members of the family of God, and of being the children of heavenly King. He invites us to trust in him with a trust that a child reposes in its father. He invites us to come to him in perfect freedom, with the confidence of a child to a loving father, kinsman, brother. Jesus, that human love can possibly be so transcendent. Yes, the human heart can know no love give good gifts to their children, how much more shall our Father in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Christ's Object Lessons, 141.4

Abraham's unquestioning and unfailing faith and his unhesitating obedience to the Lord's realest command in the matter of his son Isaac, gave him the title of "the father of the faithful," and it gave to his children the right to be remembered and venerated throughout time and eternity.

Jacob's faith in the promises of God, and his persistent wrestling with the angel, gave the Lord's plea and to carry them out, resulted in his blessing the children of Israel, and in his being called a prince of God. Christ's Object Lessons, 141.4

Joseph's unselfish, unwavering disinterestedness and his determination "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:25), rose to be the greatest general, leader, and ruler of his time, and he stands in stand on the annals of sacred history.

The apostles' sacrifice of life for the sake of Christ and His Truth, were them the exalted honor of being called the friends and the fellow-laborers of the Son of God. Christ's Object Lessons, 141.4

Luther's fearless and persevering efforts to lift up the standard of God's Law, and to lift up the Bible, and the Protestantism, the Lord, and the Bible, and the Protestantism, singularly glorious estates are greater than is yours to stand with the Lamb on Mount Sion.

Monday - January 2

God is the Owner of Everything

Psalm 50:10-12, Psalm 24:1, 1 Chronicles 29:13, 15, Haggai 2:8

What is the message here, and what should this truth mean to us and how we relate to whatever we possess?

"Nature and revelation alike testify of God's power, wisdom, and goodness. The earth, with its riches and treasures, belongs to God. The world, with its life and its beauty, is his creation. "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts." The cattle upon a thousand hills, the fowls of the mountains, the beasts of the forest, the fishes of the sea, the herbs and the trees of the field are his. All things are his. "Heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: and the heavens thereof." O that Christians might realize that they are God's property, purchased by the precious blood of his dear Son, and that they are to be his stewards, to employ every talent given them opportunity for advancing God's cause. Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1, 1855, 1868, 1871, 1885, 1909, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962,

friends of the mammon of unrighteousness. The world may condemn us for using our means in building meeting-houses, in feeding the hungry, in helping the oppressed and suffering out of their difficulties; but the Lord says that this is the very work that should be done with his intrusted capital. Those who make friends with the mammon of unrighteousness will be received into everlasting habitations. Every sacrifice made for the purpose of blessing others, every appropriation of means for the service of God, will be treasure laid up in heaven." RH April 7, 1896, par. 6

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