

Good Morning Belfield Baptist Church Family and Friends.

Sunday – December 27, 2020.

Our Verses for the day: Luke 2:28-32 (KJV) ²⁸ Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, ²⁹ Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: ³⁰ For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, ³¹ Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; ³² A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Our devotion is an outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for December 27, 2020.

How to Become Children of God

John 1:6-13

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John: the same came for a witness. His witness was to prepare the way for Jesus the one that has the adoption papers. How then do we become children of God? Verse 12 has the answer: **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:** No man has the right to be called a child of God who has not received Him.

By receiving God or Jesus, it brings us into contact with the One.

I. Who Made the World (V.10) He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He who made the world can easily remake a human soul. Look at the many miracles He performed. Healing, feeding, etc. If he did all of this, he can change us.

II. Who was in the World (v.10) He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. Jesus, who made the world, and who humbled Himself to be born into the world in the likeness of sinful flesh, that He might get into personal touch with

man's sins and sorrows. In the world but not of it, among sinners but entirely separated from them, in the world as the visible representative of the invisible God.

III. Who Is the True Light (v.9) That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. This is the only light that can possibly "lighten every man coming into the world," because this true light is the life of men. Him who is eternally perfect, with all the perfections of eternity. He is the "true Light," the "true Vine," the true Bread." He is "the Truth.: to receive Him is to receive the light of life.

IV. Who was Rejected by His Own. (v. 10-11) ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

They knew Him as the Son of Joseph, but as the Son of God they refused to acknowledge Him.

- a. Although they lived and moved and had their being in Him, yet they knew Him not.
- b. They received with eagerness His daily bounties, but Him they received not.
- c. No one could convince Him of sin.
- d. No one could find a fault in Him. Yet His own received Him not.

The fact that He was first rejected, then accepted by His own kinsfolk is another proof of the divinity of His character. He did the works that none other man could do, and so attested His claims.

As many as receive Him must be prepared to suffer reproach with Him.

V. Who has Authority to Make us Children of God. (v.12) ¹²But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believed on his name. This prerogative is His alone.

No church privilege or laying on of hands can give any one the right to become a son of God. (Baptism, church membership etc.)

The Spirit of adoption is the gift of God (Rom. 8:15) **For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**

There is no other way whereby we can become the children of God but through "faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26) **For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.** Christ came as the sent one of God, to redeem us, that we might receive the adoption of sons. He has the right to adopt because He had the power to redeem.

As many as receive Him receive redemption from sin and guilt.

VI. Who has Power to regenerate the Soul. (v.13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

To become a son of God implies regeneration by the Spirit of God.

It is not a natural birth – "not of blood."

It cannot be produced by any amount of fleshly energy – "nor of the will of the flesh."

Neither can it come by the force of intellectual effort – "nor of the will of man."

It is of God and is God's immediate answer to our faith in His Son Jesus Christ. As many as receive Him are born of God.

As we finish this year, let us all remember that we are dealing with a God sent Son, that came to save us and if we are not Christians, we cannot live as we should.

He came so each of us might have life. Will we live it this year?

The Choice is yours.

As we move through COVID-19, Let us remember that the only security we have is in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Larry Vickery

PO Box 133

South Heart, ND 58655

Cell: 701 260 5940

Email: ldvickery@gmail.com