

LESSON 10



THE POSITION OF THE SAINTS' CHILDREN

Scripture Texts: Proverbs 20:7; Psalm 103:17-18; Ezekiel 18:19-20, 30-31; Galatians 3:22; Colossians 3:25; Romans 14:12; Acts 16:31; Acts 2:38-39

Parents can give children Christian upbringing but cannot save them. The child's salvation must be brought about by his own decision to believe, repent, and yield his will to God's will. God is no respecter of persons. Each one will be lost or saved through his own choice, not another's, and judged according to his own works, not another's. God treats all on the same basis, regardless of whether or not their parents are saved.

The salvation of our children is so important that we cannot afford to fall short of the truth concerning it. Their souls are precious to God and to us.

MEMORY VERSE: *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.* *Romans 14:12*

Just Parents Are a Blessing

Proverbs 20:7 **The just man walketh in his integrity**—the saved person walks righteously. He is a good example. **His children are blessed after him.** The blessing is their father's goodness, and not that they are given credit for their father's goodness. The example of a godly parent blesses the child by giving him opportunity to know the right way. He is protected from many evils and encouraged to choose God's way. Because children of saved parents have a greater blessing than many others in having greater opportunity to know the Gospel, they will be held more accountable (John 9:39-41). This blessing of opportunity is of great value. A godly mother's prayers will influence one to say yes to God but do not make it impossible for him to say no. Nor do they cause God to accept him on any different basis than any other person.

Psalm 103:17-18 **The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting**—eternal, it never fails. Who receives it? **Them that fear him**—the saved. **His righteousness is unto children's children.** Saved parents open the view of children and grandchildren to God's ways. But God's righteousness is only given **to such as keep his covenant**, not hear it only. **To those that remember his commandments to do them.**

Law From the Beginning

Ezekiel 18:19-20, 30-31 **The soul that sinneth, it shall die.** This is God's Law from the beginning. God told the first man and woman that disobedience would result in death—spiritual death. Any person with sin in the heart is not saved, whoever he is. **The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father**, nor his righteousness. God will judge **every one according to his ways**, not some other one's. So, if any is thinking to be saved because his parents were, let him hear the Words of **the Lord God. Re-pent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions**—turn from sin to Christ. Teach the children that their decision is necessary. Otherwise, iniquity will be their ruin.

Galatians 3:22 **The scripture hath concluded all under sin**—put all people in one class—sinners. See Romans 3:23. All have the same need, so the same remedy must be applied to all. The remedy is **the promise by faith of Jesus Christ.** This promise is that of salvation from sin which is given us by Jesus Christ and obtained by faith. This salvation is **given to them that believe.**

Wrong Brings Reward

Colossians 3:25 He that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done. Each act brings its own reward to the one who did it. **And there is no respect of persons**—no difference made because of who one is. God has one standard for all, and any other would be respecting persons. The son of a godly preacher and the son of a wicked saloon keeper must each meet the same conditions, and God will save one as quickly as the other.

Romans 14:12 Every one of us shall give account of himself to God. The Auditor will check everyone's books. No one will be excused. No one will give an account for us. **Of himself.** Our parents, our pastor, or the one whom we blame for our problems will not give account for us. It is our lives, and our lives only, by which we will be judged. To give a good account, we must be saved by being washed by faith in the blood of Jesus. Each must decide for himself to be washed or not.

All Must Believe and Repent

Acts 16:31 Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. This is no promise to save children because the parents believe. Look closely at this incident. Verses 32-34 say that Paul and Silas spoke . . . **the word of the Lord** to the jailor **and to all that were in his house.** **And all his** were baptized. Then the jailor **rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.** We see that the jailor's family gathered and (1) heard the Gospel, (2) were baptized, and (3) were believers. They were saved the same as the jailor was—by repentance and faith and the work of God in their hearts. What Paul and Silas meant was that the invitation is extended to all the world on the same terms.

Acts 2:38-39 The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all . . . afar off. What promise? The promise found in verse 38. Peter did not mean nor did God suggest, by any means, that children of those afar off would receive the Holy Spirit on any other terms than any who heard Peter that Day of Pentecost. They would not be assured of receiving the Holy Spirit because their parents have done so. Christ says to all, "Come" and "him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

JUST A THOUGHT

**The home should be a haven of rest or a retreat,
but many are battlefields.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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