

Exalting the Lord Jesus through receiving His love, grace, truth and power.

Lesson # 2 — Our Father’s Eternal and Personal Plan—Exalting the Lord Jesus

Introduction.

- A. We’ve been talking about receiving God’s love—so He can teach us how to love Him in return—and thereby live an effortless Christian life. The importance, value, satisfaction and power of this way of living are seen in the believers described in the Bible.
- B. Mature believers wonder about the meaning of life. Is it only living in fellowship with God here and then with Him for eternity? Can the events and struggles of our daily life have any kind of lasting and meaningful value beyond our own personal circle of existence?
- C. The Bible reveals that there is only one all-inclusive plan. **Our Father has made an unchangeable and powerful decree that He will exalt His Son, the Lord Jesus. All creation, every angel, every person, and all events, both in time and eternity, are included in that plan.**
- D. His plan is the “Big Picture” behind our existence and daily life. We are included in that plan, and, if we will receive — He has love, grace, truth, power, joy and fruitfulness for us. Our enemy wants to keep us ignorant of God’s plan and deprived of His blessings.

I. The Revelation of Our Father’s Plan.

- A. The Old Testament Revelation. Psalm 2:6-12 (Isaiah 9:6-8; Daniel 7:13,14)
 - 1. The Rebellion of the Nations, Psalm 2:1-3
 - 2. The Plan of God the Father, Psalm 2: 4-6
 - 3. The Explanation of God the Son, Psalm 2: 7-9
 - 4. The Counsel of God the Father, Psalm 2:10-12(Notice: All facets of this passage revolve around and point to the Lord Jesus.)
- B. The New Testament Explanation. Colossians 1:9-20 (Matthew 21:33-44; John 5:19-30)
 - 1. The revealing of God’s plan as His will, Colossians 1:9
 - 2. The personal benefits of living in His will, Colossians 1:10-12
 - 3. The personal implementation of His will, Colossians 1:13,14
 - 4. The explanation and rationale of His will, Colossians 1:15-18A
 - 5. The purpose and goal of His will, Colossians 1:18B-20(Notice: All facets of this passage revolve around and point to the Lord Jesus.)

II. The All-Inclusive Nature of Our Father's Plan.

- A. It is the purposeful design of all creation — all was made “for Him,” Colossians 1:16-18.
- B. It was the understanding and affirmation of the Lord Jesus — “I am the ‘I Am.’”
John 5:22,23; 6:29,33,35,48; 8:12,23,24,58; 10:9,10; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1; 17:2
- C. It is the goal of the Holy Spirit's ministry — “He will bring glory to me” John 16:13,14.
- D. It is the assignment of the angels, “Let all God's angels worship him,” Hebrews 1:6.
- E. It is the basis of all future judgment. “Every knee should bow,” Philippians 2:9-11.

III. The Personal Provision for Fulfilling Our Father's Plan.

- A. We are chosen by our Father—in His love, Ephesians 1:3-6.
- B. We are redeemed by our Father—in His plan, Ephesians 1:7-12.
- C. We are sealed by our Father—in His Holy Spirit, Ephesians 1:13,14.

IV. The Rational of Our Father's Plan—the Lord Jesus is Worthy of All Praise.

- A. His worth is reflected in the infinite greatness of His Person.
Regarding time (*eternal*); regarding space (*omnipresence*); regarding ability (*omnipotent*);
regarding truth (*omniscience*); regarding perfection (*immutable*)
- B. His worth is reflected in the infinite greatness of His character.
He is the fullness of love, holiness, righteousness, goodness and faithfulness.
- C. His worth is reflected in the infinite greatness of His work of creation.
He is fullness of wisdom, power, plan, and sovereignty.
- D. His worth is reflected in the infinite greatness of His work of redemption.
In His involvement with human nature (His Incarnation).
In His involvement in the requirements on humanity (His holy and representative life).
In His involvement in the sin and judgment upon humanity (His redeeming work).
In His involvement in covenantal relationships with the believers within humanity (His
work as Prophet, Priest and King).