

The Family of God

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References: Matthew 6, Matthew 6:31; Matthew 6:33; Luke 14:26; Colossians 2:8

The Sacred Romance and the Family of God

Now, say you're not alone if one day you're not kingdom to this world, you are. My heart will be beating, my heart will reach me and make me. For a long time, the sacred romance in wonderful life came down to this world tonight. Let's hold the beating, my body's racing, can you hear the whistle blow? Remain one day. On Sunday morning, this choir is going to sing that piece. I'm not sure when on Monday we're going to do it, but it sounds good.

有一天呢，我们这个星期二的合唱队呢，会在星期天的上午来唱这首歌。但是我不知道什么时候唱，但是你们大家唱的非常好听。

Okay, we're going to sing another one that's somewhat similar, and it is "The Family of God": "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God. I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood. We're joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, for I'm part of the family, the family of God."

就这个时候我们要唱的是《神的家人》，我们是神的家人。因为我非常高兴呢，我成为神的大家庭的一员。我已经在那个泉水里洗净了，洗净了，又利用祂的宝血洗净，我们呢跟主耶稣同继承基业，当我在这片土地上旅行的时候。所以呢，我是神的家庭的一员，我是神的家庭的一员。

Very good! "Blinds the glare and the purple of the champagne of God, I've been lost in the moments. When dawn is gone, draw your tears and your cheeks as they dry, your eyes on the stars forever on the fountain. Thank Thee, O God, you're a rushing, rising brother and sister of me. It's because we're a family and these folks are so near, when one has a heartbeat, we all shed a tear and rejoice in eternity." In Spanish, "so dear Lord, so fair, I'm afraid. Of the family of God, I was born in the fountain, raised by a smile, joined hands with the teachers, as we tremble in song for a part of the family." Darling, let me outgo from the dark on the ocean of the waterfall. No longer a downcast, the new star I see, from grace and to riches, from the... to the strong, I'm not worthy to be here, but with what I belong, I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God, and I'm yours in the fountain. Let's find the world, try to chase the teasers as they trample this song, for I'm part of the family.

这分明风光。阿们。谢谢，谢谢。谢谢大家，谢谢。暑假回去？

What Is the Bible All About?

Well, as you know, I keep asking myself the question—especially in the light of this class—I keep asking myself the question: **What is the Bible all about?**

这个呢，实际上呢，我一直在问自己这样一个问题，特别是这一堂课里，我一直在问自己：圣经它讲的都是些什么呢？

And so recently I've been saying, you know, I think there are four parts to the Bible. The first part, I am going to say, is the history of the Bible, the history of the children of Israel, all the way from Genesis down through Malachi—that's not really what I intended to say. All the way from Genesis down through the return of the children of Israel to Jerusalem and Judea after Ezra.

其实最近呢，我在思考，就是说我认为在圣经里有四个部分。这里面的第一部分呢，我认为呢就是历史。历史呢所有的都是关于以色列人的历史，从《创世记》一直到《玛拉基书》——这其实不是我刚才试图说的。所有的这些呢，应该是由《创世记》一直到以色列人他们回来，就是在以斯拉那个时候回来，回到耶路撒冷和犹太地。

Because we've got Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, going all the way down, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, all those books. And if you were to read all those books in order, what conclusion would you reach?

因为这个里面呢，我们从最上面一直到《创世记》，那就是《出埃及记》、《利未记》，然后一直到下面，一直来到《尼希米记》、《以斯拉记》和《以斯帖记》，所有那些书。所以如果你按照顺序来读那些书的话呢，你会得出什么样的结论呢？

And it might go something like this: you would realize the **failure of man**, in spite of the presence of God. Do you ever remember reading parts of that story and you say, "Why did that man do that? Why didn't he just trust the Lord?"

所以你会理解这一点，你就会意识到人的失败，尽管神还在那里。你是否记得读到故事的这些部分时，你说：“那个人为什么要那么做呢？他为什么不单单相信主呢？”

And David was such a wonderful man; why did Solomon marry a thousand wives? And Solomon was such a wonderful man; why was Rehoboam so foolish? You read all that and you say, "Lord, I want to follow You; I don't want to make the mistakes those people made."

大卫是一个如此奇妙的人，那么为什么所罗门要娶一千个妻子呢？所罗门是一个如此奇妙的人，那么罗波安为什么如此愚蠢呢？你读到那以后，你说：“主啊，我要跟从你，我不想去犯那些人所犯过的错误。”

So, that's number one; keep that in mind. Number two: you get to the last half of the Old Testament, and it's all about the prophets—prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, all the way down to Malachi. Prophecy, prophecy, prophecy!

所以你把刚才那一部分记住，这是第一部分。第二部分呢，就是说讲的那个预言。预言呢从那个《以赛亚书》、《耶利米书》、《以西结书》一直读到那个《玛拉基书》，这些都是那个预言的书。

And it's all about the **judgments of God**, in spite of the warnings of God. Prophecies are all warnings, and the people go ahead and they do foolish things anyway.

所以这个里面呢就是说所有的这些都是关于神的审判，尽管神在不断地警告他们。预言全都是警告，但是那些人还是照样去干蠢事。

The New Testament: Salvation and Grace

Okay, with that as a background, what do you get when you get to the first part of the New Testament? The New Testament is the salvation of man because of the grace of God.

好，有了这个背景，当你来到新约的第一部分时，你会得到什么呢？新约讲的是因着神的恩典，人得到了救恩！

If all you read was the Old Testament, do you think you might get discouraged? I think you would. But when you get to the Gospels, you say, "Jesus really does love me." You say, "My sins can be forgiven." You read that He promises to give you a life of joy, and then you get to go to heaven. Okay, so frankly, I like the Gospels.

如果你们读到的所有内容只是旧约，你觉得你会感到灰心吗？我想我会的。但是当你读到福音书时，你说：“耶稣真的爱我。”你说：“我的罪可以得到赦免。”你读到祂应许给你一个喜乐的人生，然后你可以去天堂。所以，坦率地说，我喜欢福音书。

What's next? What's the last half of the New Testament all about? Would you be surprised if I were to tell you that the last half of the New Testament is **what we're supposed to do** after Jesus saves us?

下一步是什么呢？新约的下半部分都是讲的什么呢？如果我告诉你，新约的后半部分是关于当主耶稣救了我们以后，我们应该做些什么，你会感到惊奇吗？

The Old Testament teaches us all about our need. The Gospels tell us how Jesus can save us. And then you and I ask, "So then what? What comes next?" And there are many questions that you could put at that point.

旧约告诉我们关于我们的需要。福音书告诉我们主耶稣怎样可以拯救我们。然后你和我都会问：“那下一步是什么？接下来会是什么？” 在这一个点上，你可以提出很多的问题。

One answer you could get would be: you get to be rich. A lot of people would like the New Testament to end that way. And the next one could be that there's going to be a world, and the world is going to be a wonderful place, and I'm going to live in this wonderful world. And you can think of many other possible themes that could be after you trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior.

其中一个呢，你可以得到的答案是：你必须要有钱。很多人都希望新约是以这种方式结束。另外一个呢，有可能说呢，就是会存在一个新世界，在这个世界里，那是一个非常奇妙的世界，我可以住在这个奇妙的世界里。你可以想到在相信主耶稣基督为你的救主以后，很多其他可能的主题。

The Priority of the Church

But I think you'll agree that the last half of the New Testament is all about the church, or the family of God. "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God." That's what the last half of the New Testament is all about.

因为我想你会同意，新约的后半部分，全都是关于教会和神的大家庭的。‘我非常高兴我成为神的大家庭的一员。’ 这就是新约的下半部分所要讲的全部内容。

It's about seven letters that were written to seven churches. Actually, it was nine letters written to seven churches by the apostle Paul, and in Revelation, there are seven more letters written to seven other churches by the Lord Jesus Christ.

因为这是关于写给七个教会的七封信。实际上，是使徒保罗写给七个教会的九封书信；而在《启示录》中，有另外七封信是主耶稣基督写给另外七个教会的。

And you put it all together, and it's really a look at what the family of God, what the church is all about. What is the **most important** organization in the world today? The United Nations? The allied powers or the other opposing powers? Answer: no. It's all about the **church of God**.

你把这一切放在一起，这其实就是看神的家庭、看教会到底是什么样的。当今世界最重要的组织是什么？联合国？那些联盟的强权，还是其他对立的强权？答案是：不是的。最重要的，完全是神的教会。

No, Donald Trump, I don't think he believes that. And I think there are many politicians in China who don't believe that either. But that's the **most important** thing. After you trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, the **most important** thing is the **church of Jesus Christ**, the family of God.

我不认为唐纳德·特朗普会相信这一点，而且我认为在中国也有很多政客不相信这一点。但这其实是最重要的事情。在你相信主耶稣基督作为你的救主以后，最重要的事情就是耶稣基督的教会、神的大家庭。

So just a few contrasts or a few other possibilities. Some people say, "The most important thing is what are you going to eat? What are you going to wear? How are you going to carry on?" Matthew chapter six, verse thirty-one says:

我们要来做一些可能的对比。有些人说，最重要的事情是你吃什么，你穿什么，下一步会是什么。马太福音第六章三十一节说：

[Matthew 6:31 NKJV]

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

所以不要忧虑说：‘吃什么？’ ‘喝什么？’ ‘穿什么？’

And verse thirty-three says:

三十三节说：

[Matthew 6:33 NKJV]

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

你们要先求祂的国和祂的义，这些东西都要加给你们了。

Why doesn't the New Testament—why isn't the last half of the New Testament all about getting rich? Because that's not important. When you get to heaven, riches aren't going to really be that important. Down here, you walk on the street that's made of concrete or asphalt; there, you're going to walk on a street that's made of gold. Are you going to feel really bad and say, "Oh, I wish I'd brought some asphalt with me, really, I could have brought a whole box of asphalt"?

为什么新约的后半部分不全是讲你怎么样发财、变有钱的呢？因为那个不重要。当你去了天堂，财富真的不再那么重要了。在这里，你走在水泥或沥青铺成的街道上；而在那里，你将走在黄金铺成的街道上。你会不会到那里感到很遗憾，说：‘哦，我真希望自己带了一些沥青上来，真的，我本可以带一整箱沥青上来的’？

Setting Our Affections on the Spiritual Family

Now, other people say, "What really is important is my natural family. My mother, my sister, my brother, my father, my children—they're what's important in life." Look at Luke, chapter fourteen, please. Luke chapter fourteen, and verse twenty-six:

另外一些人说：‘真正重要的是我的原生家庭。我的妈妈、我的姐姐、我的哥哥、我的弟弟、我的爸爸、我的孩子们，这些才是生命中最重要。’ 请看《路加福音》第十四章，第26节：

[Luke 14:26 NKJV]

"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

人到我这里来，凡不恨他的父母、妻子、儿女、弟兄、姐妹和自己的性命，就不能做我的门徒。

What's all that mean? That means that Jesus is far more important than our natural affections, our natural responsibilities. So what is important? Is it important that we care for our natural family? Yes, but God's family is **more important**.

这到底是什么意思？这意味主耶稣比我们的天然情感、天然责任要重要得多。那么，什么才是重要的？我们照顾原生家庭重要吗？是的，这很重要，但是神的家更重要。

Remember now, we've been studying about the fact that the Lord Jesus, at the Last Supper, sat down for the Passover. The Passover was to be eaten by the family. Who did the Lord Jesus eat the Passover with? The disciples—His spiritual family.

我们大家都记得，我们一直学习到这样一个事实：主耶稣在最后的晚餐时，坐下来吃逾越节的筵席。逾越节是要和家人一起吃的。而主耶稣是和谁一起吃逾越节晚餐的呢？祂的门徒——祂的属灵家庭。

Alright, what do other people think? Well, they think, you know, "The first thing you've got to do is get a really good education." Is education important? And the answer is yes. How important? Not very much. Book of Colossians chapter two, verse eight:

好，那其他人又怎么想呢？有些人认为：‘你首先要做的事是接受非常好的教育。’ 教育重要吗？答案是肯定的，重要。但是有多重要？其实没那么重要。歌罗西书第二章第八节说：

[Colossians 2:8 NKJV]

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to

the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

你们要谨慎，恐怕有人用他的哲学和虚空的诡诈，不照着基督，乃照着人的遗传和世上的小学，把你们掳去。

When I went to school as a boy, one of the first things I learned was that Mother Nature had done a lot of wonderful things. I was only in grade one. I thought, "Who on earth is Mother Nature?" I said, "I never met her." It didn't make much sense to me, but that was education in grade one!

当我还是个男孩子、刚开始上学的时候，我学到的第一件事就是‘大自然母亲’做了很多奇妙的事情。我当时才读小学一年级。我想：‘地球上到底谁是大自然母亲啊？’我说：‘我从来没见过她。’这对我来说没什么道理，但那就是一年级的教育！

When I went to university, I learned a lot of other nonsense. Basically, they went out of their way when we were at university to teach us that there was no God and the Bible was foolishness. But verse eight says, "Beware lest anyone cheat you or spoil you through philosophy." Unless you're very careful, education can do that.

等我上了大学，我又学到了很多其他荒谬的事情。基本上，当我们在大学的时候，他们不遗余力地教导我们说：没有神，圣经是愚蠢的。但是第八节说：‘你们要谨慎，恐怕有人用他的哲学和虚空的诡诈。’除非你非常小心，否则教育确实会产生这样的危害。

And I told you about John Lennox and Stan Ford, didn't I? John Lennox—if you get a chance, listen to him on Google. John Lennox is one of the most outstanding, brilliant, intelligent educators in the world today. He's got three or four doctorates, I'm not sure, maybe five, and he's a marvelous defender of the faith. If you see anything by him, read it, listen to it. It's outstanding material. He was a professor at Oxford University.

我曾和你们讲过约翰·伦诺克斯（John Lennox）和斯坦·福特（Stan Ford）的事，对吧？如果有机会，你们可以在Google上搜一搜约翰·伦诺克斯。约翰·伦诺克斯是当今世界最杰出、最聪明、最睿智的教育家之一。他有三四个博士学位，不确定，也许有五个，他是一位伟大的信仰护道者。如果你看到他的任何作品，去读一读，听一听，那都是极其优秀的材料。他曾是牛津大学的教授。

He had a friend whose name was Stan Ford. By the grace of God, both of those men have preached at 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel. You don't deserve it, but that happened.

他有一个朋友名字叫斯坦·福特。因着神的恩典，他们两个人都曾来到我们第十六街福音教会讲过道。我们本不配得，但这件事确实发生了。

The difference between John Lennox and Stan Ford is this: John Lennox got several doctorates, and Stan Ford never went to one day of school. He missed grade one, grade two, grade three, grade four, and he never did graduate from high school, obviously, and he never went to university.

约翰·伦诺克斯和斯坦·福特之间的区别是：约翰·伦诺克斯拥有好几个博士学位，而斯坦·福特一天学校也没上过。他没上过一年级、二年级、三年级、四年级，显而易见他高中也没毕业，更从来没有上过大学。

He lived with his fists. As a young man, he was a champion boxer; if you got in his way, that was the end of you. And then he trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. And John Lennox invited him to Oxford, to teach the people in Oxford the Bible.

他以前是靠拳头混生活的。年轻时他是一个拳击冠军，如果你挡了他的路，你的一生就到此为止了。后来，他信靠了主耶稣基督作为他的救主。约翰·伦诺克斯便邀请他去牛津大学，去教牛津大学的学生们圣经！

The High Calling of the Family of God

Okay. What is it that the Christian has been called to? To make money? Serve your family? Get a brilliant education? Make a big name for yourself through personal achievement? And the answer to all that is no. The **most important** thing in the life of the Christian is the family of God, the church of God. That's the **most important** thing. And the life of the Christian—that's what the last half of the New Testament is all about; it's all about the church.

所以，基督徒蒙召是为什么呢？是赚钱吗？服侍你的家庭？获得极高阶的教育？在个人成就上为你自己赢得名声？对所有这些的回答都是：不是。基督徒生命中最重要的事，是神的大家庭，是神的教会。这才是基督徒生命中最重要的事，这也是新约后半部分的全部内容——完全是关于教会的。

And the people on the street don't understand that, and most Christians don't understand that. Yeah, believe it. But the Bible says the New Testament is divided into two parts. Number one: how to become a Christian by the grace of God through what Jesus did for you!

街上的人不理解这一点，而且大多数基督徒也不理解这一点。是的，确实如此。但圣经告诉我们，新约分成了两个部分：第一部分，如何因着神的恩典，通过主耶稣为你所成就的事，成为一个基督徒！

And the second half: how to live as a Christian in the family of God, in the church, by the power of the Spirit of God who is given to you.

第二部分则是：作为基督徒，如何在教会中、在神的大家庭里，依靠赐给你的神之灵的大能去生活。

Is the church important? What's the most important building on 16th Avenue? Gospel Chapel—sorry, on 16th Avenue. Some people would say Choys; other people would say Starbucks. Jesus says: the **church of Jesus Christ**, that's more important! That's the **most important!**

教会重要吗？在第十六街上最重要的建筑物是什么？是福音堂——抱歉，在第十六街上。有些人会说是对面的乔伊斯，其他人会说是星巴克。但耶稣说：耶稣基督的教会，那更重要！那才是最重要的！

And our time is gone again. I apologize, that's all we can say this morning.

我们的时间又到了。我抱歉，今天早上我们只能讲这么多。

Lord, we want to thank You for the family of God. I'm so glad I'm part of it. And Lord, our prayer is that each of us would recognize the priority—not of our family, but of Your family. The church is Your family, and we want to be faithful in that. And help us to be faithful in everything else too, including our own personal family. We give thanks. We pray that You'll bless us and use us in Your family for Your glory. And we give thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

主啊，我们感谢您，为了神的大家庭。我们非常高兴我是其中的一员。主啊，我们的祷告是，愿我们每一个人都意识到这个优先顺序——不是我们自己的家庭，而是您的家庭。教会是您的家庭，我们要在其中持守忠心。也求您帮助我们在其他一切事上也持守忠心，包括我们自己的原生家庭。我们献上感谢。求您赐福给我们，并在您的大家庭里使用我们，好让您得着荣耀。我们满怀感恩，奉耶稣基督的名。阿们。