

THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOD'S CHILDREN



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The Rights and Responsibilities of God's Children

FOREWORD

As Christians, we are God's children. However, though we consider ourselves as children of God and call God as our Father, actually we often assume those terms "**children of God**" and "**Father**" just as "titles" not as "status". Such an assumption basically becomes the reason why **we are less aware that we truly have the status or position as God's children.**

The lack or absence of the awareness about this status as children of God can be the cause of some Christians easily shunt their status as they do not realize what a grand gift they possess. So, when a Christian lacks the awareness concerning his or her status as God's child the person would scarcely think about his/her rights and responsibilities or obligations.

This thin book is to explain first about how we may obtain the status as children of God, then the rights we possess

pertaining the status, and also the responsibilities or obligations thereof.

We would be overwhelmed when we know how wonderful the rights God gives us as His children. Therefore, let us study together about this most important issue while thanking our Heavenly Father for His grace to grant us the opportunity to understand this.

I Corinthians 2:10 *”But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”*

Soli Deo Gloria,

The writer

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOD'S CHILDREN

BECOMING GOD'S CHILDREN

Right away, when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we will be saved. This is recorded among others in Romans 10:9,

“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

As it is written in the verse, this belief should be uttered or pronounced by our own mouth. This utterance of our belief, or our confession of faith on how or why we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior is usually done in the form of prayer, namely **a prayer of acceptance or recognition**. And here is an example of such prayer on how we accept and recognise Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Lord Jesus, here I come to You. I confess that I am a sinner deserved to be punished. But now I believe that You have died to save sinners. Please enter into my heart as my personal Lord and Savior. Forgive all my sins and please write my name in the book of life so that I belong to them who obtain eternal life. I believe that from now on I have the assurance of salvation in the Kingdom of Heaven. In the name of the Lord Jesus I pray gratefully. Hallelujah, amen.

This is just an example and does not always have to be the same, but the essence of the confession of faith is the same and does not change.

The Meaning of Baptism

Then the next process should be in accordance with the Great Commission as recorded in Matthew 28:19-20,

*19 “Go ye, therefore and teach all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”

So our confession should be followed by **baptism**, the sacrament through which we publicly declare our faith as followers of Christ, as God's children, before some people or an

audience, such as servants of God or Church congregation, or both as witnesses.

Immersion Baptism and Sprinkling Baptism

Generally there are 2 types of baptisms. The sprinkling baptism and the immersion baptism. The verb “to baptize” means “to immerse”, from the Greek word **baptizo** which means, “plunging, dipping or soaking, ...washing” (*Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, 1952, p. 131*).

The writer personally believes that baptism by immersion is more appropriate, because in addition to the meaning of the word *baptizo* above, the Lord Jesus Himself also was baptized by being immersed in the water as recorded in Matthew 3:16 which says,

“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.”

The phrase “*went up . . . out of the water*” means that when Jesus was baptized, He was soaked in the water. If the Lord Jesus was baptized by being sprinkled with water, He would be on a dry place since not much water is needed.

Likewise happened to the eunuch from Ethiopia as we read in Acts 8:36,38,

36 *“And as they went on their way, they **came unto a certain water:** and the eunuch said, See, **here is water;** what doth hinder me to be baptized?”*

38 *“And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and **they went down both into the water,** both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”*

This shows that the eunuch was baptized by immersion. Now, if he was baptized by being sprinkled with water, they would not need to find a place with much water, since they definitely would have brought along some water to drink on their journeys.

Also John 3:23 states that where John the Baptist baptized people was a place with much water: *“And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was **much water** there: and they came, and **were baptized.**”*

Died and Raised up

Immersion Baptism symbolizes to die or to be buried with Christ, and to be raised up from the dead like Christ, as recorded in Romans 6:4,

*“Therefore we **are buried with him by baptism into death**: that like as **Christ was raised up from the dead** by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**”*

That is why in the process of baptism by immersion, those who are baptized will be immersed until the whole body is covered with water, which **symbolizes death (being buried)**, then be helped to stand up again, **symbolizing the raising up into a new life.**

Indeed, some pastors or ministers of God assume that baptism is just a proforma. But even if it is a kind of proforma, the writer still wants to do what agrees with his conviction, because obviously **to be baptized is part of the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus, so it ought to be carried out correctly.** The writer himself was baptized by immersion, but some of his children and in laws were baptized by being sprinkled. However, the writer had asked some other pastor to baptize them again by immersion.

Abba, Father

Further, in Romans 8:15 we read,

*”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.**”*

The verse above clearly says that at the very moment we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, **we are saved**, and God gives us the Spirit of sonship **to become children of God and by that Spirit we cry, “Abba, Father.”**

The Meaning of Abba in Aramaic

The word *Abba* is originally Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus Himself and often used in ancient Christian community. “*Abba*” is customary for children to call their father, like the term “Papa” today. The word *Abba* is uttered by the Lord Jesus and the Apostle Paul as an intimate term to depict their personal relationship with God. Thus using the term “*Abba, Father*” for God expresses our true relationship with God. As Christians we often refer to God as Father, however only as a plain “word”, not succeeded by respect nor obedience, while actually *Abba* should be applied with reverence to God.

Moreover, we often underestimate the term “Father” which was mentioned only once by the Lord Jesus (Mark 14:36) and

twice by the Apostle Paul (Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6) in the New Testament. But as Jesus uttered this, we can feel the intensity of His intimate relationship with His Father.

In our new status as children of God, we obtain special rights and responsibilities or obligations attached to it. Therefore we need to learn the rights and responsibilities or obligations of a child of God, and we will start first with the rights.

THE RIGHTS OF GOD'S CHILDREN

Many Christians are indifferent to their Christian life. This happens because they do not know the exceptional rights that God has bestowed upon them as His children. Therefore, let us study these prominent rights that we obtain as children of God.

1. Receive The Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 1:21 "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God."

22 *Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”*

Hence, at the moment we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, at that very moment we also receive the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) in our hearts and He will lead our lives as recorded in Romans 8:14,

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

So all the children of God are to be led by the Spirit of God. Here below are some guidance and help given by the Spirit of God to the children of God.

Romans 8:26 “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, we cannot pray, but the Holy Spirit will help us how we should pray, even He himself will pray for us to God the Father.

1 Corinthians 2:10 “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

When we become children of God, God wants us to know Him personally. Therefore God gives us His Spirit, the Holy

Spirit, who will reveal to us even the deep or hidden things about God so that we can know God.

*Acts 1:8 “But ye shall **receive power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

The above verse explains that the Holy Spirit will give us power. What power? *First, the power to reject sins.* So it is not true what most people think, that since they have just repented and their faith is still weak, they have no power to reject sins.

To the church in Rome, the Apostle Paul explained in Romans 6 that at the very moment we are saved, our old selves are crucified, so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we will be raised with a new body to bear the fruit of the Spirit to lead us to a holy life.

Besides that, we are also given the power to cast away sickness, evil spirits, even demons in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the power to ask blessings for our families and for others as well.

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

Hence the Holy Spirit will give us strength, enable us to have love and to live orderly.

*John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall **teach** you all things, and **bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you.**”*

One of the titles of the Holy Spirit is *paraklete*, an English word in Christian theology transliterated from the Greek noun *parakletos* which means encourager, advisor (intercessor), helper, comforter. Therefore, if we are sensitive and willing to follow the voice of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, He will control our lives, teach us, remind us and encourage us to be doers of the Word of God.

*John 14:16 “And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that **he may abide with you for ever.**”*

The Holy Spirit will be with us for ever. Therefore we need not be afraid to walk/live this life, even to face the tribulation or period of persecutions during the end-times, for we will be accompanied perpetually by the very Person who is ready to help, comfort, advise and give us strength.

2. We May Call God as Father

*Galatians 4:6 “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, **Abba, Father.**”*

The writer knew a certain family with some children and one of their children **was adopted** by a government official. The family was very proud and happy. Yet we are not adopted, instead we are acknowledged by God the Creator of heaven and earth, King of kings, as His own children.

When we observe or study any histories of the religions existed until now, there has been no single religion where the exalted or adored supreme personality, divinity, or god of it allow their adherents to call him Father. No, none! Even if we study the Israel as God's chosen people, God did not allow nor give them the right to call Him Father. Exodus 20:7 says,

“Do not mention the name of the Lord your God carelessly, because the LORD will look guilty to those who speak His name carelessly.”

This verse does not only forbid to call God as Father, even mentioning the name of the LORD* carelessly would be considered guilty. That is why unto this day, the nation of Israel never dared to mention the name of the LORD. For example, when there is a verse in the Torah mentioning the name of the LORD, the Israelites would replace the word LORD in that verse with the word "Adonai", which means Master or my Lord as they read the verse since they fear less they mention the name of the LORD incorrectly either in their speech, situations, attitudes,

positions, and others, so that they would be considered careless and found guilty.

According to the writer, this implies us too. Even though we are allowed to call God as “*Father*”, we must not mention His name, the “LORD”, carelessly. Some people used to cry out, “O LORD! Oh, my God!” To the writer’s opinion it is improper and should not be done, because the verse in Exodus 20:7 remains valid until now, also for God’s children, no exceptions.

In the New Testament too the verse is reconfirmed in the Lord's Prayer.

In this prayer (Matthew 6:9), the Lord Jesus started like this, “*Our Father which art in heaven, **hallowed be thy name**,...*”

**In the Bible produced by LAI (Indonesian Bible Society), “TUHAN” (“LORD”) is used for God's name, all capitalized, as the translation of the word “YHWH” or in Hebrew “יהוה”, - pronounced: Yahweh or Jehovah, while “Tuhan” as the translation of the word “אֱלֹהִים” (“Elohim”) is His designation.*

Now the meaning of the phrase "*hallowed be thy name*" bears the conception that the name of God, namely "LORD" ought to be treated holy. The name of God must not be carelessly or inappropriately mentioned, as if it is just any simple or common word or name which seems cheap and unworthy that might be mentioned and treated heedlessly, as we please.

Then in Matthew 12:36 Jesus said,

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." (KJ)

Or *"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken."* (NIV)

So, if we carelessly utter a word, not only the word "LORD", but any other word as well, we will have to give account for it later on the day of judgment. For more details, please read again the writer's book entitled "**OUR SPEECH**"

3. We Are Allowed to Enter into Heaven

Some people might already heard that the writer has been given the opportunity to learn for 20 years the five religions known existing. The writer has been attending church since his childhood and was baptized as a teenager. In 1980, the writer's

first college year, there was a subject about Comparison of Religions. In the course of studying this subject the writer realized that there were four other different main religions and Christianity was not the only one: Roman Catholic, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Moslem. The writer longed to learn them all and find out which is the right and true one. When the writer presented or conveyed about this matter, sometimes people asked him, *“What did you discover during those times that you finally decided to choose Christianity?”* To answer this question, the writer could explain extensively, adequately, or simply as time allowed.

When simply, the writer usually would start explaining what religion is. Now, religion involved at least two issues. *First, religion involves human relationship with God.* If the relationship is between a human being and his fellowmen, it is called social science, law issue, ethics, and so on. If the relationship is between human beings and the universe or the stars, it could be astronomy or astrology, and so on. Religion is about the relationship between God and man. *Second, how to enter into heaven,* because these five religions all believe that there is another life after death. And in this after-life, some people would enter into heaven and some would go to hell. Each religion has its own terms and ways to enter into heaven or go to hell.

Then the writer would ask the inquirer, *“Sir, you surely have a house, haven’t you? Would you permit anybody to enter into*

your house and live there?" The answer would definitely be, "No!". "So, then who would be permitted?" "My wife, my children, and my family, of course."

Now, what is heaven? **Heaven is God's house.** Therefore, who is permitted to enter into it? **Definitely, His children.**

Then the writer would ask them again. "If you see some children who are good, nice and sweet, would you permit them to come into your house and live there?" The answer would be, "No, I wouldn't." Why would they not be granted the permission even though they are good, nice, and sweet? The answer surely would be, "Since **they are not our children.**" Hence, similarly people who have tried to be good, nice, and sweet would not be permitted to enter into the Kingdom of heaven because of **their status, as they are not God's children.**

In the Bible, it is clearly stated in 2 Corinthians 5:1,

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (KJ)

Or "Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands" (NIV)

Thus, this verse explains that later when our earthly tent or mortal body we live in is destroyed or when we die, God has

already prepared a place in heaven for our spirit or our resurrected body to dwell in it.

Further, in John 14:2,3 we read,

2 *“In my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”*

Since we are His children, God as the Owner of Heaven has already prepared a place for each of us.

And continued in verse 3 which says,

*“And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again, and receive you unto myself**; that where I am, there ye may be also.”*

It is explained here that someday in the future the Lord Jesus would come for us, either in His second coming or at the moment we leave this life. That is why when a Christian passes away, it is commonly said that he or she “**has gone to Heavenly home**”, for we as Christians leave this world to go to a place called home which God has already prepared for us in Heaven.

4. God's Promise to Provide for Us in This World

In 1 Peter 1:3-5 it is explained,

3 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

4 *“to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven **for you,**”* (KJ)

Or

3 *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

4 *“and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven **for you,**”* (NIV)

Thus, verses 3-4 explain about our process of being saved through Jesus Christ and that later when we die, there would already be a place reserved for us in heaven.

However, in verse 5 it is said,

*“**Who are kept** by the power of God through faith **unto salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.”* (KJ)

Or *“**who through faith are shielded** by God’s power **until the coming of the salvation** that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”* (NIV)

This verse is the continuation of verse 4, after the phrase *“reserved (or kept) in heaven for **you.**”* And who is meant by *“you”* here? **You** in this verse are people including us who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, as explained previously in verses 3-4. Hence there is already a place prepared for us in heaven. Even though we have the promise of a place assured for us in heaven, at present we are still living in this world and

awaiting that life in heaven which we would be able to enjoy only after we leave this world or die. This is explained by the phrase “*unto salvation*” or “*until the coming of salvation*”. However, as children of God, He will take care of us and provide for us in this world by His strength.

For more details, please read again the writer’s book entitled “**GOD’S PROMISE TO PROVIDE**”.

5. Becoming the Object of God's Love

Romans 8:30-32 explain,

*30 “Moreover whom he determined from he did predestinate, them he also called: And whom he called, them he also justified. And whom he justified, **them he also glorified.**”*

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

*32 He, **that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**”*

These verses explain that God willingly sacrificed His own Son to save us sinners. So then, would He not do other things which are much simpler, for us, His redeemed children? Yet,

God's desire is not only to give us all things, even more than that, **God really wants to glorify us.**

Today there are pastors who say that after we have been redeemed through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus, we must serve Him as a token of our gratefulness. It is certainly not wrong to serve, but if we think we are redeemed so as to become servants of God, we might hurt God's heart. Such a concept indicates that we think God redeems us not because He loves us, but so that God can have many servants. The truth is, God redeems us to become His children, not to become His servants since God has a host of angels as His servants, **and that we would become the object of God's love.** The writer believes that when we get married we long to have children. When we finally get children, we have no plans at all to make our children as our servants, rather to make them the object of our love. If our goal concerning our children were to make them as our servants, we would send them to school only until they finished elementary school. We need not send them to a higher level of education, nor provide special facilities and all kinds of comforts. For more details, please read again the writer's book entitled ***"To be Children of GOD or Servants of GOD"***.

6. Helping Us in Our Difficulties

God understands that when we accept Christ as Lord and Savior, we are still to dwell in this world for some time and do not go directly to heaven. God promises that He will take care of us. Yet He also understands that as long as we live our temporary life in this world there will be many problems and difficulties we must face. Therefore, in Matthew 11:28 the Lord Jesus clearly said,

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (KJ)

Or *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* (NIV)

God really wants to help us, so He uses the word *“Come”*. He wants us to immediately approach Him, come to Him, when we face difficulties, because He wants to help us solve all our problems right away, so that we can be released or freed from them.

When this topic is being discussed, there are often some who wondered, *“Though I have been praying for my problems and made every effort I could, still help doesn't seem to come.”* Perhaps one of the answers is related to this verse in Mark 11:24,

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” (KJV)

*“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, **believe that you have receive it, and it will be yours.**” (NIV)*

So, one of the keys to our prayer being answered is **to believe that we have received it.** This means that if we ask God for something, we should believe that He has already prepared it for us, then we just wait to receive it and do not go to any other personality to appeal for it, since our request has been granted by God. From the writer's experience concerning this verse, in some instances the problems were still unanswered, no resolution from God. As the writer reflected upon this case, he found out that it happened because he kept an ambiguous attitude at that time. Yes, he asked for God's help, but on the other hand he exerted himself to overcome the problems by his own strength, or sought help from other sources. It could be seeking help from officials, acquaintances or anybody. Some other people may be seeking help from some " smart people/ wise men", or from other gods. This attitude shows that we don't believe God has granted our request.

7. God Wants to Be Close to Us

*James 4:8 “**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded!**”*

When we study this verse, “*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you,*” we will see clearly that the initiative of drawing near or approaching must begin with us: When we draw near to God, then He will voluntarily draw near to us. But there are necessarily some conditions. First, *cleanse your hands*. This means that we have to cast away our sins, to ask for God's forgiveness. Therefore let us begin our prayers with asking God's forgiveness for all our sins and wrongdoings, along with a serious intention to relinquish any sin.

Then “*purify your hearts, ye double minded*”, which actually means that we must keep our hearts clean and not be double minded or ambiguous. We must trust God completely.

The writer pondered on how “*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you*” can be clearly perceptible. During one of his recent vacations the writer just got the meaning, and this might be the true one. At that very time, the writer and his family were faring on a cruiser and we have bought an internet package provided by the ship. This cruiser harboured at several ports and we could go ashore to enjoy the beauty of the cities. Once when we went ashore, his wife received several news via WA (Apps) she had to answer. The communication through WA seemed to run well. Yet quite soon she found out that her messages failed and were not sent. She was quite panic, because the news she conveyed were important. After talking with our children, we then

realized that our position was too far from the ship, thus we could not make use of the internet signal since the provider was on board. Consequently, we went back closer to the ship to obtain the active signal. Likewise, we must draw closer to God so that we can have an active line to communicate with Him. How can we draw closer to God? By **setting aside a special quiet time daily to have an intensive fellowship with God**: reading the Bible, praising God, and praying.

When we draw closer to the Father, He will bless us and shape us to become His children who would please Him.

Psalm 24: 3, “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

4 “He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

5 “He shall receive the blessings from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 “This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O (God of) Jacob.”

Those are the seven rights we are endowed with as God’s children. Now we will continue to the second main topic, the responsibilities of God’s children.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOD'S CHILDREN

The rights owned by God's children are settled for us to receive. However, the responsibilities or obligations of God's children **MUST** be carried out as a logical consequence in our status or position as God's children.

There are 2 prominent responsibilities of God's children.

1. To Maintain the Status as God's Children

*Hebreux 3:14 "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we **hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.**"*

All these rights specifically related to salvation, to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, etc., will be our privilege if we maintain our status as children of God unto the end of our lives. If we let loose this status, it clearly would make us no more as children of God. We cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven, cannot enter the Father's house.

The Apostle Paul also mentioned this issue in 2 Timothy 4:7, *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, **I have kept the faith.**"*

There is a very important phrase, *“I have kept the faith”*. So, it is not just finishing the course or the race till the finish line, but also keeping our faith until the end.

There are at least 2 things causing a child of God to lose his or her status as God’s child.

First: Intentionally or Consciously Cast Loose Their Status

Matthew 6:24 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

We often read about some people who has cast loose their faith to gain certain projects, positions, facilities, or to marry somebody.

As it was mentioned earlier, the reason someone easily abandon or cast loose his or her status as a child of God is that the person does not know nor understand how valuable the rights he or she receives as God's child.

Explaining about the Kingdom of Heaven the Lord Jesus used a parable to describe the preciousness of one’s salvation. So if the person knew this, which was likened to a hidden treasure, he/she would be willing to sell all of his/her possessions to obtain the treasure.

Matthew 13:44 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."

The Apostle Paul even counted everything in the world but dung, as thrash, compared with the rights he got through Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:8 "Yea, doubtless, and I call all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ."

Second: Cast Loose by Deception

Matthew 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

Nowadays, in the end-times, many false messiahs and false prophets will appear. Therefore we really must have adequate knowledge of the Word of God so that we will not be fooled easily. For more explanation, please read again the writer's book entitled "**HEAVIEST TEMPTATIONS**".

2. The Behaviour of God's Children

When we decide to accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, we will be saved and granted the status as God's children. And as God's children, we are required to behave as such, according to Romans 8:29,

*”For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to **the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* (KJ)

Or *“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to **the likeness of his Son**, that he must be the firstborn among many.”* (NIV)

A Christian's spiritual growth is proportional to his or her likeness of Jesus Christ.

To be like Christ is not something we can work out by ourselves, rather it is God's work who will shape us through His Holy Spirit in us, as recorded in Philippians 2:12-13,

*12 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**, 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”*

This verse explains that God will shape us, but we must do our duty or take our responsibility, that is to “*work out our own salvation with fear and trembling*”. What is actually to work out our own salvation? The essence is to keep holding on to our faith till the end, striving to strengthen it by way of:

First: routinely spend a devotional quiet time, read the Bible diligently, meditate upon the Word of God and **do it in our lives**. Then learn to thank and praise God either in good or in bad conditions, set aside ample time to pray regularly.

Second: diligently attend worship services, do not skip worshipping in the church.

Third: to have a regular family worship at home.

To behave appropriately as a child of God is obligatory as a logical consequence of that status along with the rights we receive accordingly.

We often read about common people who were married to some members of the Royal family. So they eventually belonged to the Royal family and their status were raised up. They might often be reprimanded for their improper attire, such as sleeveless gowns or be criticized for their skirts, either too short or too tight, even for the colours which were considered too loud or not elegant, and so on. Initially, some of them were indifferent and didn't really care much, but later on they relented and agreed

to fit in. Why would they finally obey? Of course, it is a logical consequence of the new status they received. So, if they agree to become members of the royal family, they not only would get the proper rights, but they would also have responsibilities and obligations accordingly.

Isaiah 55:6 “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near!”