

## AS A LITTLE CHILD (2012 & 2018)

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Very simple things about being a Christian; yet hard for some
2. One of those simple, yet hard for some, is to be like a little child in receiving the kingdom of God
3. Christ is recorded as making references to this requirement on at least two NT occasions
  - a. When the disciples were arguing about who was first
    1. Matthew 18:1-10 (the fullest account)
    2. Mark 9:33-37
    3. Luke 9:46-48
  - b. When the disciples refused to allow little children to be brought to the Lord;
    1. Matthew 19:13-15
    2. Mark 10:13-16
    3. Luke 18:15-17
  - c. It is interesting that John makes no mention of this event yet must have been very impressed with its significance I JOHN 2:1; 2:12FF
  - d. Paul referred to his brethren and converts as little children
    1. Galatians 4:19
    2. Declared he had begotten them with the gospel 1 Cor 4:15

### 4. Chosen text is MARK 10:13-16

### RECEIVING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS A LITTLE CHILD:

#### I. TO BECOME A LITTLE CHILD WE MUST START OVER:

- A. This perplexed Nicodemus; John 3:1-21
  1. As we come forth from the watery grave of the womb, we also come forth from the watery grave of baptism
  2. We inhale or drink deeply of that life-giving air
  3. Just so, as we are born again, we drink in that Spirit or life-giving Spiritual Breath from God. Acts 2:38-39
- B. We are a new creature, new life, new spirit, COMPLETELY HELPLESS 2 Corinthians 5:17
- C. The person who cannot look to God with this attitude and do this cannot enter into the kingdom of God
- D. Cannot be like Christ; Philippians 2:5-9
  1. As He took upon Himself a robe of man's flesh
  2. At our new birth, we are clothed with righteousness; Rev. 19:8
  3. From that point on dependent upon Him for our cleanliness; 1 John 1:9

#### II. FIRST DESIRE AFTER BREATH IS FOOD:

- A. 1 Peter 2:1-2;
- B. John 4:34 As Christ's meat was to do the will of the Father, so must ours be
- C. This is the family's responsibility
  1. Father has supplied that food, the word of God
  2. It is the responsibility of the church to minister it:
    - a. Matthew 12:48-50 Jesus declared those who do the will of the Father to be a mother, that is the church!
      - b. 1 Timothy 3:15 "the pillar and ground of the truth..."
      - c. The Father has set those whose responsibility is to "feed the church" Acts 20:28
      - d. And those who are to preach the word 2 Timothy 4:2
- D. To receive the kingdom as a little child is to DESIRE THAT FEEDING!

#### III. A LITTLE CHILD ATTACHES TO PARENTS:

- A. His identity is wrapped up in them

- B. He strongly desires their company
- C. His whole life is wrapped up in his Father and mother
  - 1. Happy to see his mother
  - 2. Excited by company of his family
  - 3. Comforted by them

IV. A LITTLE CHILD WILL DESIRE TO PLEASE PARENTS:

- A. Will discover what pleases and seek to do that
  - 1. Requires instruction
  - 2. Will see that instruction in word of God
- B. Will soon discover what displeases and try to avoid it:
  - 1. Needs and accepts correction;  
Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15
  - 2. Seeks then to avoid in the future Hebrews 12:5-11

V. A LITTLE CHILD DESIRES TO GO WHEREEVER HIS PARENTS GO:

- "...that where I am, there ye may be also..." John 1:1-3
- "...no man cometh unto the Father but by me." John 14:6

VI. A LITTLE CHILD WANTS TO GROW TO BE LIKE HIS FATHER OR MOTHER:

- A. Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."
- B. Philippians 3:17 "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample."

VII. A LITTLE CHILD WANTS TO SPEND TIME TALKING TO AND LISTENING TO HIS FATHER AND MOTHER...NEEDS TIME WITH THEM

VIII. ABSOLUTELY TRUSTS

- A. TRUST AND OBEY "For I know whom I have believed..." 2 Tim 1:12b
- B. "EXCEPT A MAN BECOME AS A LITTLE CHILD, HE CANNOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD"