

Text— John 8:42-51

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Our Scripture selection is part of a discourse Jesus had with some unbelieving Jews, some Pharisees who were high-churchmen stuck on themselves and their own works. The Pharisees for the most part hated Jesus Christ even though He is the one true Savior, the Messiah foretold of old; and so, we learn in John 8:23-24 that Jesus told them straight out: “Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.” Yes, despite the sanctimonious outward appearance of those Jewish high-churchmen, they were headed for hell in they continued in impenitence and unbelief, for John 3:16-18 declares: “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

My friends, it remains true to this day that there is no neutrality when it comes to what one thinks about Jesus Christ, for Jesus plainly states in Matthew 12:30, “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” Indeed, one is either for Christ or one is against Christ; one either believes in Christ as one’s personal Savior and Lord or one does not believe in Him.

Consequently, one is either a child of God or one is a child of the devil, for Holy Writ relates: “ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he

that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.” (Galatians 3:26-27; 1 John 3:10-12; Hebrews 11:4) Hence, one is either a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus, or one is a child of the devil because of lack of faith in Christ Jesus.

Jesus makes the truth of the matter very clear in our Scripture selection which supplies us with:

“FACTS ABOUT GOD’S CHILDREN AND THE DEVIL’S CHILDREN”

With that as our theme may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) What are some key characteristics of God’s children contrasted with those of the devil’s children
- 2) What future awaits God’s children as contrasted with the devil’s children

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Verse 42, ----- (John 8:42)

Note well that if one is truly a child of God, one will love Jesus Christ since Jesus Christ *proceeded forth and came from God; neither came* He of Himself, for God the Father *sent* Jesus Christ, who is, as John 1:14 reports, “the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Yes, Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God the Father; Jesus Christ is the Messiah promised long ago by God the Father. Therefore, one cannot own God as one’s Father without loving Jesus Christ whom He has sent, for 1 John 5:1 clearly states: “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.” Hence, it’s a fact

that if a person truly loves God the Father, he or she will also truly love God the Son, Jesus Christ, who is the only begotten of the Father. God's children love Jesus Christ and the heavenly Father who has begotten Him from eternity.

Verse 43, ----- (John 8:43)

Think about the fact that Jesus said to the unbelieving Pharisees and company who were stuck on themselves and their own works: *Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.*

Realize that Jesus' Word could not be understood by those unbelieving Jewish high-churchmen because they had hardened themselves against the Word, just like those Jews to whom Stephen spoke in Acts 7:51, saying, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye." Oh, when people stubbornly, repeatedly, and deliberately reject God's Word, He finally hardens them in their unbelief. God's children hear God's Word with their heart and believe on Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord; the devil's children do not hear God's Word with their heart and remain in unbelief as they stubbornly and wilfully reject Jesus Christ the Redeemer.

Verses 44 & 45, ----- (John 8:44-45)

Jesus pointedly informed the pride-filled unbelieving Jews whose children they actually were when He said to them: *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.*

Observe that Jesus alludes to the fact that the unbelieving Jews sought to kill Him as they followed the example of their father the devil who was a murderer and a liar from the beginning. The devil lied to our first parents, Adam and Eve, and

thereby brought death upon them. We read in Genesis 2:16-17, "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Then, what did the sneaky devil say? We read in Genesis 3:4-5, "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Thus, the devil lied as he directly contradicted God's Word! We all know what happened: spiritual death, physical death, and never-ending death in hell all became realities because of the murderous devil with his lies.

However, Romans 5:19-21 declares: "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." Thankfully, the Lord Jesus Christ is our Rescuer from never-ending ruin! Jesus always speaks the truth; yea, Jesus IS TRUTH personified, for He says in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus is the only Way to God and heaven, and God's children know that Truth by God's grace and power, while the devil's children believe the devil's lies and reject the Redeemer, hating the Truth.

Verse 46, ----- (John 8:46)

Consider Jesus' questions to the self-righteous Pharisees and company who continued to reject Him in unbelief, for Jesus asked them: *Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?* In reference to Jesus Christ, 1 John 3:5 reports: "ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin." Thus, Jesus Christ IS SINLESS. That being the case, ALL that Jesus says is absolute truth, and

therefore Jesus' Word is to be believed. Hence, those who refuse to believe Jesus' Word show that they are in fact the devil's children, while those who believe Jesus' Word show they are God's children.

Verse 47, -----. (John 8:47)

In total honesty and truth, Jesus said to those who opposed Him: *He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.* This confirms the fact that God's children hear God's Words, Christ's Words, while the devil's children do NOT hear God's Words, Christ's Words, since they are people who are NOT of God.

My friends, it is obvious in these latter days upon earth that the devil has many children, while God's children are few in comparison. Widespread public opinions and many policies enacted by civil government leaders are contrary to God's Word, such as the practice of murdering babies via abortion, the push to legalize hallucinogenic drugs in more states, gambling via casinos and lotteries and phone apps, the so-called "rights" demanded by lesbians, homosexuals, and trans-gender folks enmeshed in their vile wickedness. God grant that we continue to cling to Christ and His Word lest we fall from faith! Let us never forget what Jesus once said to the relatively few Jews who did believe in Him: "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32)

Verses 48 & 49, -----. (John 8:48-49)

The unbelieving Jews, being the devil's children, resorted to name-calling since they refused to respond intelligently, honestly, and penitently to Jesus, for they said: *Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?* You see, Holy Writ reveals that "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." (John 4:9) Yeah, the Samaritans were generally despised by the Jews, who, being filled with racial prejudice, held them to be nothing but a half-breed race of people who lacked their fine

blood line. Then, on top of that, the wicked Pharisees and company dared to accuse Jesus Christ of being devil-possessed even though they could NOT convict Him of sin. Those Jews were filled with hatred against Christ without any just cause, thereby showing they were indeed the devil's children.

In truth the Jews knew Jesus was NOT a Samaritan, for Matthew 21:10-11 informs us that when Jesus "was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee." So, they knew Jesus was a Nazarene. Furthermore, they also knew Jesus did NOT have a devil, for we read in John 3:1-2, "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." Hence, despite knowing the facts, the unbelieving Jews in hatred railed against Jesus, thereby further proving they were the devil's children and NOT God's children.

Jesus could have struck His enemies down on the spot, but He did not. Instead, *Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.* You see, Jesus would not stoop to His opponents' level by ranting and raving untruths against them, for Jesus is TRUTH personified and remained sinless, honoring His heavenly Father even while the Pharisees and company dishonored God the Father's only begotten Son who is Jesus Christ Himself.

My friends, take it to heart that God's children love Jesus Christ and believe on Him as their personal Savior and Lord, while the devil's children hate Jesus Christ and reject Him in unbelief. God's children speak the truth while the devil's children speak lies like their father the devil. God's children hear God's Word, Christ's Word, with their ears and heart; on the other hand, the devil's children do not hear God's Word, Christ's Word, with their heart even if some of them hear it with their ears, for they hate the Word of God and the Word of

God who was made flesh and dwelt among us.

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As we ponder our text to its conclusion, let us see what future awaits God's children as contrasted with the devil's children.

Verse 50, ----- (John 8:50)

Consider the fact that Jesus told the self-righteous unbelieving Pharisees and company: *I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.* Thus, in contrast to the Pharisees who loved "the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets" (Luke 11:43), Jesus was NOT a self-seeker of glory as they were. No, Jesus knew that God the Father sought the glory of His only begotten Son, and judged those who rejected Him in hatred and unbelief. Remember that God's Words and Jesus' Words are one in the same, for Jesus declares in John 12:44-50, "He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."

Accordingly, the devil's children, the people who reject Jesus in unbelief, will be judged by Jesus' Word which IS GOD'S WORD on the Last Day, and God's Word says in 1 John 5:11-12, "this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." Thus, those who reject God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in unbelief, also reject God the Father

and what He speaks, and therefore show themselves to be the devil's children who will be sentenced to never-ending death in hell, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:44)

Verse 51, ----- (John 8:51)

Our text closes with Jesus declaring: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.* Yes, Jesus doubly assures us that those who keep His Word will never see death, for although their bodies will sleep in the dust of the earth – unless they are yet alive when Jesus visibly returns in glory – they will never see death since upon temporal death their souls immediately are with the Lord in glory, and they therefore see eternal life.

Thus, God's children, all believers in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, have a wonderful future of happiness and bliss. On the other hand, the devil's children, all those who reject the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, in unbelief, will most assuredly see death, the never-ending death of hell, according to soul and body. Indeed, it is as Mark 16:16 plainly states: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Therefore, having considered from our text important facts about God's children and the devil's children: let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins; and, let us in heart-deep fervent faith tenaciously cling to Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord, for Acts 4:12 informs us in no uncertain terms, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Yes, let us keep our full trust and confidence in Christ Jesus, for He is our only Deliverer from doom. Amen.

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