

Wednesday, 10th June 2020



THE CANDLESTICK

Abba (Rom. 8:15)

What a beautiful name for expressing the most personal relationship between the child and the father, *abba*! It is a word describing the closeness of the bond which transcends all human vocabularies.

Recently, little Anna was playing with her dolly, and she removed its dress. After a few unsuccessful attempts at putting it on again, she handed it over to me with the three very simple words, “Fix it, grandad”. ... And I took it and put the dress back on the dolly. ... It made me consider the intimacy of the relationship we are privileged to own with our heavenly Father, our *Abba*.

We see this throughout the Bible. King David, for example, began his psalm with the wonderful words, O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1). He reminds us of the affinity each of us enjoys with our eternal Father Who knows everything about us and is interested in every detail of our lives, as Jesus said, Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father (Mt. 10:29).

How amazing that despite our sin, He keeps on loving us. He didn't cast us away but instead He made the way back to Himself through grace. In another psalm, the psalmist wrote, The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. (Ps. 24:1). ... It *all* belongs to Him, and there is coming a day when it will be as He planned it to be ... *His*, in every way! And that will be when Jesus returns to reign triumphantly and gloriously. He will make the wars to cease unto the end of the earth. He will turn the weapons of conflict into instruments of peace for His glory. As it was in the Garden of Eden, the wolf will again dwell with the lamb, and the leopard and the young goat will lie down together, along with the calf and the lion cub, for the earth shall be *full* of the knowledge of the Lord (Is. 11:9). ... That is when the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together ... And here is *His* guarantee ... *for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it* (Is. 40:5).

We are surrounded today by the mayhem associated with the coronavirus, and the panic about global warming, and the ongoing racial equality issues, and a whole host of other areas of concern, emanating from the doomsday soothsayers. ... It is all *so* negative ... it's depressing! What a contrast, though, to the Christians for we

ought to be the most positive people on earth because we know our God holds already “the whole world in His hands!”

That's how King Solomon saw it too when he wrote, There are many devices in a man's heart; *nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand* (Prov. 19:21). ... And when you read through the Old Testament, you find repeatedly God demonstrating His glory when the ‘devices’ of men *seem* to be at their most invincible. It is often when evil men and women are blatantly daring to proclaim their most despicable declarations in contravention of God's Word, that His glory appears ... Their darkness cannot overcome His light (Jn. 1:5)!

With anticipation, then, we confidently await that day when our glorious Father, - our *Abba*, - will send His radiant Son to reign with righteousness and faithfulness over ‘the meek of the earth’ (Is. 11:5) ... and that is how Jesus promised it, Blessed are the meek: *for they shall inherit the earth* (Mt. 5:5). ... As believers in Christ, we're not relying on the empty vain promises of self-deluding rulers and governments, but we are trusting in God and *His* assurances, as was the apostle John when he wrote, Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is (I Jn. 3:1,2).

Aren't you glad you are saved, and you know we are on the victory side? Yes, presently, we are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed (II Cor. 4:8,9), ... We are not clinging to what the world promises, but we have our eyes fixed upon the Lord, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (II Cor. 4:8). ... He *is still on the throne*, and He has never for one instant forgotten His own! The hymnwriter worded it perfectly, “To him that overcometh a crown of life shall be, he, with the King of Glory, shall reign eternally”.

... I mentioned Anna and her dolly, “Fix it, grandad”. Yes, I fixed it. She couldn't fix it, but she was convinced *I* could, so she handed it to me. She didn't interrupt or tell me I was doing it wrong but instead, she watched quietly as I ‘fixed’ it. And when I had finished, she held out her little hands and received it from me.

In the second verse of Psalm 8, David wrote, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength. ... How often we learn from the innocent

faith of a child! ... It's how Jesus explained it too, Except ... ye become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 18:3).

Spurgeon believed this too, for he enquired of his congregation, “Brethren and sisters, can you say that you have been made into children? Do you take God’s Word just as it stands, simply because your heavenly Father says so? Are you content to believe mysteries without demanding to have them explained? Are you ready to sit in the infant class, and be a little one? Are you willing to hang upon the breast of the church, and suck in the unadulterated milk of the Word – never questioning for a moment what your divine Lord reveals, but believing it on His own authority, whether it seemed to be above reason, or beneath reason, or even contrary to reason?”

His close friend was Hudson Taylor, who was heard say on his deathbed, “I am so weak. I can’t read my Bible. I can’t even pray. I can only lie still in God’s arms like a little child, and trust”. ... Through the blood of Christ, we have been saved, redeemed, born again, and adopted into God’s family. And that is how we have the confidence He is our ‘Abba’, our ‘Father’ ... and we are privileged to call upon Him at any time, knowing He always hears and answers, as the hymn says,

Simply trusting every day ... Even when my faith is small ...

Trusting Him, whate’er befall, Trusting Jesus, that is all