

## It's All in The Family

**Theme: God Has Done Great Things**

**May 18, 2025**

Seeing the Word of God unfold before us as we anticipate the Lord's imminent return is very encouraging. The Holy Bible informs us of the conditions of the world and man's disregard for truth and justice.

In **Matthew 24** and **Luke 21**, Jesus discloses the signs of the end times, including wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, and the deception of false Christs.

**2 Timothy 3** gives us a picture of the condition of man's heart and his attitude toward the things of God. **Verses 1 – 5** But understand (this), that **in the last days** there will come times of difficulty. **2** For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3**. Heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, **4**. Treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5**. Having a form of godliness, but denying its power. **Avoid such people.**

Things are happening at an alarming rate, and people are surprised and appalled by the direction the country is taking. It is as if we are living with the blind leading the blind, and no one has read the bible! **Jesus says**, in **Matthew 15:14 ESV**, "*Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.*"

**As believers in Christ, the Holy Spirit continually works in our hearts to conform us to His image! 1 John 4:17 NKJV** "Love has been made perfect among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgement; because as He is, so are we in this world." **Our goal and pursuit in life is not to be like Mike... but like Him (Jesus!). If you agree, let God be praised and the devil with his liars be dammed!**

When we confessed with our mouths and believed in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, we were saved from spending an eternity away from God! (**Romans 10:9**) Hallelujah!

**He has placed a song in my heart:**

*Some thank the Lord for friends and home / For mercies sure and sweet / But I would praise Him for his grace in prayer, I would retreat... Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul- Thank you, Lord, for making me whole – Thank you, Lord, for giving to me thy great salvation so rich and free.*

**Our Message for today:**

**Scripture Text: 1 Peter 2:9-10 AKJV 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light: 10 which in time past were not a people, but are now the**

*people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

1 Peter reminds us that we are representatives of **a chosen people, not based on individual merit but by God's grace**, preparing and anticipating the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been set apart from the world as recipients of the Holy Spirit's abiding presence to be Christ witnesses. **As a royal priesthood**, we have access to God as in the Old Testament through Christ to offer spiritual sacrifices of praise and service. **As a Holy Nation**, we are separated from the world's calling to live a life of holiness and dedication as He works in us to will and do His good pleasure. **As peculiar people**, we belong to God and are set apart for His glory as the Holy Spirit leads us to minister to others. **As God's people**, we are to outdo the world with praise to the **Only One** who has given us **eternal life through Jesus' victory over death, hell, and the grave**. When walking in the light, as He is in the light, no one should have to beg or urge us to praise the Lord our God, who has redeemed us by the blood of Jesus... Hallelujah! Praise automatically comes from a grateful heart, due to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit! **The world goes after fame, fortune, pleasure, and financial security, while Christians seek the presence of the Lord!**

We should remember that we were once lost and separated from God the Father because of our sin and rebellion against His will. **We could not identify as children of God, even though He created us, because we were living according to our sinful nature of death.** The bible says in **Ezekiel 18:20 NIV** *The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them.*

**Romans 3:23-25** *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation (atonement) by his blood, to be received by faith.*

As people who have received mercy and grace come into a relationship with God the Father through the work of Jesus Christ, **they are then children of God**. This is where the **Redeemed (S&H bound)** rejoice: Thank you, Jesus! Hallelujah! Glory to God! Bless the Lord!

When the Holy Spirit empowers us, we can reflect God's character: **Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control!** WE ARE RECIPIENTS of **God's Mercy** and **Grace HERE ON THE EARTH** as we share the love of God with **UNBELIEVERS**. If you want to experience God's mercy and grace, it's all in the Family! Ask any child of the Father to introduce you to His mercy and grace in Christ Jesus! He is the representation of God's Mercy and Grace, who came to save us from eternal death, hell, and the grave!

**Applications:**

**How our family treats others is undeniable, among those whom we encounter.**

**The world will know us by our love for one another.**