

We have been orienting ourselves to things pertaining to Phase 2/Level 2 of your Sonship Education. We left off last time as we were looking at some things in the book of Colossians. I'm not going to repeat any of that in this session, but I do want to move you on to the next passage in Colossians where there is additional warnings given to the son.

Colossians 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. 20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, 21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not; 22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

In this one, I want to point out the “worshipping of angels.” Today, angels is one of those “hot button” topics. Everybody wants to know about angels. Everybody is looking for an angel to appear and tell them something or at least they would love for that to happen. If an angel did appear, it wouldn't matter what the angel said, they would believe it and obey it.

These are people who want to go back to being children in Israel's program; being told things by creatures that are superior to them in knowledge, being subject to creatures who direct their actions like they are children.

Little do these people know that in this dispensation, we are supposed to be educating angels, not the other way around. Through this sonship education, you are going to judge angels. That is, they will take their direction from you, not you from them. And you should know more than any angel while you are still on this earth. You are the one with the capacity for godliness, not angels. You are the one who was adopted, not angels. You are the son who has this intimate Father/son relationship with God, not angels. You are the one being groomed for management in God's government, not angels.

It is with the knowledge you get here – not when you get to heaven – but here, that you will run the creature and give direction to angels. If angels begin to look at you the way they did Israel under the law, then you have no reputation with them. They don't want you to be the one over them, because you don't even know what is going on now, let alone later in eternity when you are supposed to bring life to the creature.

Which is why God is not dispatching angels to tell you things or give you direction or intercede in your life. I'm aware of the stories of angels appearing and doing this or that, and without going into a long, drawn out explanation that would get us off track, either those things were a fabrication or they were not of God. And since Paul tells you that Satan can and will present himself as “an angel of light,” I'm going to tell you that most people wouldn't know the

difference if they saw him. Because there is only one way to discern that angel of light as to whether he truly is or is he the deceiver – and again, most people don't know that single criterion for discerning the difference. If it's anything connected to a miracle, then it must be of God. If it's supernatural, then it must be of God. Forget what the word of God say, just go with the experience, for that is exactly what your adversary wants. He loves those gullible, ignorant (and I mean that in the true sense of the word, not as a slander), easily deceived people who have no idea what God is doing in this dispensation of grace.

Well, that's a long diatribe to say that Paul is talking about his very thing in Colossians but he is saying that if you get swept up in this, you will lose your reward! No, you will never lose your reward/inheritance that you have **in God**; you are always, and automatically upon faith in Jesus, an "heir of God." But you can lose your reward that you have **in Christ** which is your "joint-heir" inheritance.

Just as an aside, the things at the end of the Colossians passage are perfectly logical and natural in religion. I'm talking about "being subject to ordinances, touch not, taste not, handle not..." To the normal saint, all these things make perfect sense, but to a properly educated and edified son, these are un-natural and illogical.

But just to get back on track in our examination of discretion, let me read you the work that George Crabbe did in his book on English synonyms.

He lists judgment, discretion and prudence and then he writes this:

"These terms are all employed to express the various modes of practical wisdom which serve to regulate the conduct of men in ordinary life. Judgment is the faculty which enables a person to distinguish right and wrong in general. Discretion looks to the present; prudence to the future. Discretion looks to the moral fitness of the thing as well as the consequences which may follow from it."

And in the sense we are looking at it, discretion is what allows us to think about a certain action, statement or decision and be apprised of whether that is the wise thing to do. In line with this is the subject matter of Ephesians.

Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye **walk circumspectly**, not as fools, but as wise,
¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

Walking circumspectly is an aspect of discretion. That use of circumspectly is such a great word. It speaks to the caution that you should have in your walk (conduct/conversation!). And if you recall, I told you in earlier lesson that this sonship curriculum would allow to purchase some things. Well, vs. 16 says "redeeming the time..."

Now, it did not say you can “buy time.” It says that you can buy (redeem) “the time.” And that “the” makes a difference. I’ll let you play around with that for a while before I tell you about it.

But, to get back on track, what you are seeing is that Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians contain information that enables the son to regulate his behavior, properly exercise self-control, and act with caution as to how his actions impact his reputation.

I know I have talked to you about this some in the past, but if you have been spending some time in Ephesians – Colossians, you should have noticed that both phases of Level 2 are contained in these books. In fact, just to take Ephesians as an example, you should be able to see the change in Phases in this book.

In the first part of Ephesians, Paul moves from giving us the doctrine that produces subtilty in our inner man, to the doctrine that produces knowledge and discretion in us. That discretion is what guides our conduct and behavior so that we do not get caught in an indiscretion. So where do you see Paul beginning to address your conduct and behavior? To see this, you need to be able to identify the single word that describes your conduct and behavior; your “walk.”

You see it in Ephesians 4:1.

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Notice in Ephesians 4, the issue is our vocation. That's why our training and our father's business is all about. It's true that you've known about this vocation from the beginning and now you need to understand something about your father's cause. In this dispensation of grace, He is producing the new creature, the body of Christ. The vocation that's attached to the body of Christ forms the substance of everything that this dispensation of grace is concerned with.

This is why, when Paul prays what he does back in Ephesians 1, he lists 3 categories of “knowledge.” Let’s briefly look at Paul’s prayer.

Ephesians 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in **the knowledge of him**:

Okay, so what is that knowledge? Here it comes in all 3 parts:

Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Did you spot the 3 things that Paul prays for you to “know?”

1. what is the hope of his calling
2. what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
3. what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe

Looking back to vs. 17, let's notice that phrase "the Father of glory." As the "Father of glory," He has designed a plan that results in the exaltation and extolling of His rightful "glory" and we're directly involved in that (by His own design).

In Ephesians 4 and following, your "walk" is spoken about there in connection with your vocation and your walk is not recognized as being divorced from your vocation. Your walk is now recognized as a means of you walking worthy of your vocation. —and then as you're exhorted in the details of the doctrine about your walk, everything is connected with you emulating your Father and walking just like the Son walked (in connection with the sonship curriculum).

When it comes to identifying the exhortations in Proverbs that pertain to Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Level 2, we can find these in Proverbs 6:20 – Proverbs 8:36. We could go over there and spend quite a bit of time looking at that, but I think I'm going to hold off on that, at least for now. Perhaps later, when we go through the doctrine, there may be a need to go to those exhortations, and if there is, we will do that. But for the most part, I'm going to reserve that for that later time. But you are welcome to go over there and read through that and it won't hurt you to do that.

I guess I should stop here and say that by all of what I just told you, I do not mean to say that the exhortations are not important. We aren't going to skip them. Listen to this carefully, if all you get is doctrine, then you are not getting what your Father intends for you to get. The exhortations are there for a reason. Since it was God who created your inner man, and He is the one who put together the "forms of doctrine" that will go in it, the exhortations play a role of "priming" or "formatting" or "enlivening" your inner man to receive the doctrine.

I know I've talked about the exhortation being the primer coat and the doctrine is the paint coat, but actually, that doesn't adequately describe what the exhortation does. The exhortation is what prepares your inner man, in every way that it needs, to not only receive that doctrine, but to have it do its job of effectual working.

But I should also be quick to add that when we get over in Paul's epistles, we are going to get exhortations over there. Again, we could go over and look at these now, but I think I will wait on these as well.

After all, all we are after is an orientation to these things. When we get over there, we will have plenty of opportunity to see these exhortations and have them work on us.

For those of you who are looking to identify the two Phases of Level 2, in the exhortations in Proverbs, here is how I presently see this:

Phase 1 of Level 2 is Proverbs 6:20-35.

Phase 2 of Level 2 is Proverbs 7:1 – 8:36.

And just in case you are interested, the corresponding doctrine in Proverbs for a son in Israel's program is found in Proverbs 20-24.

For several sessions now, we have been oriented to the things concerning Phase 2 of Level 2 Sonship Education. Those "things" concern your conversation which points to your reputation in the heavenly places and how that reputation can be damaged even by an indiscretion. But this is not where your reputation began.

Now let me take you back and show you where you first began to have your reputation in Phase 2 of Level 1 of your sonship education. It took place as you began to be educated in those godly decision-making skills and more precisely in the skill of godly equity.

Romans 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

Now, let's move down to vs. 18 and let's notice what is said, for this is the first time you realize that you are getting a reputation; that someone is talking about you.

Romans 14:18 For he that **in these things** serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

This is not a general statement meant to say that if you "serve Jesus" then you are acceptable to God. The "these things" have to do with the education in godly equity. And when you begin to live out of this equity, then two things happen:

1. you are acceptable to God
2. you are approved of men

Even though you are already "on the radar" so to speak, with the Adversary, when you first begin to get a reputation, it is with men. In order for you to be "approved of men," they have to see you or observe something about you, do they not?

In this godly skill of equity, where you learn to put others ahead of yourself and deem them more important than yourself, that begins to get noticed by men, and that is where your reputation begins.

So what you come to understand is that you are not just getting some great decision-making skills that allow you to perceive the will of your heavenly Father, but you are being talked about – in the beginning, by men.

By the time you get over to Phase 2 of Level 2, you find that your reputation has now spread to the heavenly places and that it will have its main impact there. Yes, it started out among men, but it doesn't end up there, it ends up in the heavenly places where your "conversation is in heaven."

All I'm trying to do with this is show you where that reputation began and how it changed as you progressed through the Sonship Education. When Romans 14 says that you are "acceptable to God," that is a marker which indicates that your Father was looking for something and He found it. He saw that you have begun to see that your actions count for something, not just with your Father but also with men. And that is how Level 1 comes to an end, with the realization dawning on the son that he now has somewhat of a reputation. You don't even yet know to call it a "conversation," but you are in the beginning stages of this whole issue.

This realization of the reputation and its impact is not full-blown in the son in Level 1, but the son is beginning to realize that his actions have consequences. In Level 1, he just knows that it affects his Father's perception of him and it also affects how men think about him. As he progresses, he will see his reputation grow and its impact spread to the heavenly places, but he won't be told about that until Level 2.

This issue of your reputation starts back in Level 1. You come to understand that this is more than just gaining 4 really neat skills that allow you to "prove what is the will of God." Now you are faced with the fact that your use of these skills impacts more than just you.

It's like being pregnant; the things you do have an impact on more than just you. Now, you will have to have someone else in mind (which is what equity is all about!) before you start making decisions. You see, once you are aware of this, you can't go back to the old way of doing things. And know that, ought to make you more desirous of subtilty, knowledge and discretion than ever because you realize that some people and things (like your reputation) are at stake in what you say and what you do.

The danger here is that the flesh has a tendency to get puffed up over these decision-making skills that those around you (in your job, your family, etc.) may not have. This why we need to be reminded that we still only a simple son. We haven't yet been shown the depth of the Father's business or even the POE and that serves to get our feet back on the ground. In fact, what you will find the curriculum, is the Father moving very quickly to give the son doctrine to counter what the flesh is going to do. And that is the job of subtilty.

Subtilty is what exposes that immature, bravado-type thinking. Subtilty lets you know that the "little" you do now know as a simple son, isn't a "lot" in the grand scheme of things. In other words, the young man knows his limits, and that is an advancement in maturity. And even that gets advanced in Phase 2 of Level 2 when you are told of your conversation in heaven.

Before we leave off with Phase 2 of Level 2, I want to talk to you a moment about the wisdom of your Father as it stands in contrast to the wisdom of this world. There is an allurements to the competing wisdom that is going to be offered up to the son, in an attempt to get him away from his Father's wisdom. We can see this clearly in the book of Proverbs.

Proverbs 7:4 Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman: 5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.

The strange woman has allurements.

Proverbs 7:16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. 21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. 22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

The godly wisdom of your Father is also supposed to be alluring, but it is alluring in a different way. That's why vs. 4 says to call wisdom, your sister. The way a brother cares for a sister is that he values her and wants to protect her. This is evident in the Song of Solomon where the Shulamite woman is watched over by her brothers. It is interesting what they say in the Song of Solomon as they evaluate her suitors, and watch over her to protect her from one who would harm her.

The son does not see his Father's wisdom in the same lustful way that he might see the strange woman, but he is to see her as his kinswoman. One that is precious is a different way, but still precious. And for the son, godly wisdom and godly understanding will save him (protect his reputation) from the strange woman.

What I'm trying to communicate is that in Phase 2 of Level 2, the son is acutely aware of the kinds of inroads the POE will make in order to eat away his time. That is why we have Paul saying what he does in Ephesians 5:16.

Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

This does not mean that you are going to be able to buy more time. That is why the article "the" is inserted and it doesn't say "redeeming more time," or "redeeming time," or any other such thing. It is talking about redeeming the time you have!

This "redeeming the time" works in two ways. First of all, my understanding of this is that "redeeming the time" has to do with how we are spending our time. This comes in the midst of a list of things the son will do in his everyday life.

Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,
¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*. ¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Part of walking circumspectly, as a wise son (and not foolish) is to watch how you spend your time. When it says, “because the days are evil,” it isn’t just referring to the fact that there is evil in the world, for there has been evil in the world from the beginning. In fact, what it actually says is that “the days are evil.”

In the context, the days are evil because of how “time” is handled. The “days being evil” points to the POE’s attempt to get you away from your sonship education by manipulating how you spend your time. As your time is spent in either putting your sonship skills into practice in your everyday life, or being involved in some operation of your Father on this earth, or engaging in the Sonship Education, you are redeeming “the time.”

At work, you may not be learning Sonship, but you can put what you have learned into practice. That would “redeem the time.” And by such actions you would be buying “the time” back to yourself.

Another misconception about “time” comes out of the hymnbook; the idea that in eternity there isn’t going to be any more time. The Bible never says that. We even like to quote that hymn as though it came right off the pages of Scripture; “time should be no more.”

That phrase never occurs in your Bible. Where that came from was a misunderstanding of something said in Revelation 10. In Revelation 10, you have a chapter containing subject matter that began back in Revelation 8. There is an account of things happening under the trumpets, just like there is under seals and vials. The account of the trumpets runs from Revelation 8-10 and it takes you completely through the LORD’S day of wrath, from beginning to end.

Just to set the context, let’s read about the first 3 angels and their trumpets.

Revelation 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. 7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. 8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. 10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; 11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

Now we skip to the 6th angel.

Revelation 9:13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. 15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

Now, let's move to the 7th and final angel which will sound the trumpet at the end of the day of wrath.

Revelation 10:1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: 2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, 3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. 5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that **there should be time no longer**: 7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

The phrase “there should be time no longer” has to do with the time for the day of wrath, not time itself. How do you know this? Because we still have “time” in the millennial kingdom after this 7th angel has sounded! You still have seasons and days and months and years. Time is never going to be done away with; we will have it forever in the “ages to come.”

In addition to this, look at how the chapter lays out the events.

Vs. 6 – the angels says time shall be no longer

Vs. 7 – the voice John heard back up in vs. 4 tells him to go take the book out of the hand of the angel whom John just heard say “time shall be no longer.”

Vs. 8 – The angel gives John the book and tells him to eat it up.

Vs. 11 – the last thing the angel says is that John must prophesy again before many people, nations, tongues and kings.

So the issue is not that time itself is done away with, but rather that the time for the day of wrath is “no longer;” it is coming to an end. Which is exactly what verse 7 tells you – the mystery of God should be finished.

Don’t confuse the “mystery of God” in Israel’s program with the “mystery of Christ” in the dispensation of grace. Those are not talking about the same thing. And I’m not going to take the time to straighten all that out, for we have already taken too much time on this issue of time that really isn’t in our orientation. I was only pointing out that our view of time has been distorted.

When you are in Level 2 of your Sonship Education, there is another aspect of the “evil man” concept; the “angry man.”

Proverbs 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:²⁵ Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

This also is one of those attempts to get the son to ruin his reputation, this time by those whom the son associates with. There is a lot we could say about all this, but I don’t want to dwell on this. Just know that whoever it is that you spend your time with, you run the risk of being influenced by them in your own conduct and behavior and being seen in the same light they are seen in.

Now, just to review Level 2:

In Phase 1, as we move into Level 2 of our sonship education, in the book of Ephesians, it is as though our Father takes us back to the time when He set the business up, before we ever came along. It is as though the Father takes us back to that time and shows us His business plan. He opens the books and says, “Here’s what I did when I established the business; here’s how the business has been going up until now (when you’ve come onto the scene); here’s what I planned and purposed back with I first began the business for your roll in it; and here’s what the business is supposed to be doing when it all gets done in the future.”

That is the body of information that gives you subtility. That is what Phase 1 of Level 2 is doing.

It is done in the framework of knowing those 3 categories I mentioned to you earlier:

- 1) what is the hope of his calling,
- 2) and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
- 3) and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

And when those 3 categories of comprehension gets produced, the son goes from being the simple son to the young man. Then you move into Phase 2 of Level 2 where now, as a young man, you understand the fullness of your reputation, that you bear the Father’s name and the Father’s cause to such a degree that from this point on, your conduct and behavior reflects on Him and His business.

As Paul put it in Ephesians 4:1:

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

That becomes the big thing for the son now. Think about this: when you “walk worthy” of something, you show that you have got the right, by demonstrating in your conduct & behavior, to possess what you’ve been promised or given to possess.

And that becomes the son’s conversation in the heavenly places. Because the Father has blessed you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Ephesians 1:3), He’s making your reputation resound (broadcasting it) all over the heavenly places all the time. They (the angels) know that you’re coming up there and you’re on your way (qualification-wise) to function there in the management of the business.

In view of that, the big issue now is to walk worthy of that in the eyes of the Adversary, his cohorts, the angels and men. And when you do, you receive the “end” which is a reward as a joint-heir of Jesus Christ and you become the inheritance of your Father. It is because of that, that the son has to be given the discretion that gives him the ability to make decisions that do not bring your reputation into disrepute. That is why you need to “walk circumspectly.”

“Circumspectly” = watchful on all sides; attentive to everything; cautious; heedful of all circumstances that may affect action or decision.

Walking circumspectly is exactly what discretionary judgment

Demands. When you walk circumspectly you are walking cautiously, aware of the fact that you are being watched and an opportunity is being sought to take advantage of you and to bring you into disrepute in some manner or form. So circumspectly, you look all around you at all times, keeping vigilant with respect to your conduct & behavior so as not to be ensnared or find yourself in a compromising, reproachful situation.

Part of that plan of the POE is going to seek to entice you to put yourself back under the earthly program (very theological) - and it will all be packaged in such a way so that it doesn’t appear at all to be in any way contrary to who the son is who can still be called a member of the church, the body of Christ — but to that son’s conversation being in heaven, it is contrary, and it is just as seriously damaging and ruining as any sinful act he could ever perform could be!

Now, that brings us to the end of Level Two’s orientation. Are there any questions we need to answer before moving on to get oriented to Level 3?