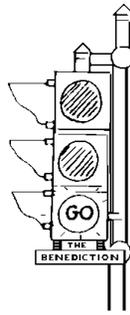


# The Benediction



February 9, 2006

To be called the children of God is not something we merit: we deserve such honor no more than any other people. Yet God has chosen us and called us to Himself. He has determined to love us, regardless of who we are or what we've done in this world. And God's love does not allow Him to abandon us when we are slow in responding to His call. Rather, God courts His Church just as a man courts his future bride long before she says 'yes.'

Even as we delay in entering into a covenant relationship with God, He sees the end from the beginning, and continues the courtship until its conclusion. Yet, this will not always be so. There is a set time to respond to God's advances towards us. It is called today.

## THE QUEST (John 5:19)

Have you ever been courted-- I mean, really courted?

Just for you?

Not because of convenience as when working, studying or drinking together, or otherwise in the same familiar surroundings.

But a suitor made a special effort just for you.

There was no other subject or focus-- you were the object of desire.

And all of you were included: thoughts, feelings, intellect, needs, responsibilities, pains, dreams, and despairs as well as physical beauty.

And did it happen without a reason?

Not because of your inheritance; not because you were *Beauty of The Year*; not because of your brilliance or social standing?

And despite all the not because's, someone saw you as special and wanted to adorn you, just because?

Could you handle it?  
will you try?

***Revelation 21:2 (KJV) And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for husband.***

## DEUTERONOMY 7:6-9

For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

{7} The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: (8) But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (9) Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

## The Quest, Inverted

I know about your scar.  
But I love you  
and have put it away.  
Will you?

(2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21 KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. {18} And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; {19} To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. {20} Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. {21} For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

## THIS DAY?

Surrounding you on every side,  
clinging to your every breath...  
Encompassed in death and destruction,  
you move on with a wish  
for a better you won't know.  
For within your habitation  
there is no hope, this day.  
This too can pass.  
How choose you *THIS DAY*?

---

Today's curse: "Later!"

---

"He could have superimposed on us his holiness and peace. But he did not. Rather, he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

Pastor Dan Leamon, Christ The King Community Church  
Lancaster, PA 05/22/94

---

*The Benediction* may be reproduced in its entirety; it has been designed as a mailer. Feel free to print (one sheet, two sides) and mail to a friend, or e-mail using your browser "send page" function. For information on how you might assist us in encouraging believers to read and apply God's word, send an e-mail to [Benediction@wh.org](mailto:Benediction@wh.org).

*The Benediction*  
NATIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION (5065)  
6201 Leesburg Pike, Suite 405  
Falls Church, VA 22044