**A GOOD FATHER**

Bible Reading: 1 John 2:28-3:10

The song, “He’s a good, good Father, that’s who He is”

To everybody who is a child of God, He is their Father.

The Lord’s Prayer begins with “Our Father”

The concept of fatherhood is at the very heart of God and it is something that Satan has tried hard to destroy.

Some people’s concept of God has been damaged by their bad experiences with their human father. For example:

♦ The **cruel father** – God is cruel;

♦ The **absent father** – the God who cannot be trusted;

♦ The **non-relational father** – the God who cannot really be

 known;

♦ The **prejudiced father** who favoured one child above the

 others – the God who has favourites – but I am not one of

 them!

**\*\*** The story of the boy who tried to buy his father’s time

**\*\*** I understand that others know God as Father but I have never

 been able to experience it for myself!

Many times people have said to me, “My father was never really able to express love to me.”

If someone’s concept of fatherhood and their understanding of God as father have been damaged, then they need God to reveal that truth to them in their spirit!

“God is the father of spirits” [**Heb. 12:9**]. Opinion comes from our mind, but revelation comes through our spirit and God wants to repair the damage and show us the true meaning of the word “father.”

Before we look a little more closely at the text for today, for I would like us to just consider what God is like as a Father from the story of the lost son in Luke 15. The father ***releases*** his son, ***longs*** for his son, and ***embraces*** his son.

\*\* The story of Tim and how God began to change him.

**I would love to highlight four truths our passage in 1 John how God as our perfect Father cares for us**

**THE FATHER MADE US HIS CHILDREN**

It is almost a sense amazement as John says, “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God” [**1 John 3:1**]

When we were lost and had no hope He adopted us into His family. “…you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father” [**Romans 8:15**].

**\*\*** The story of Angela and Tim

**THE FATHER GIVES US A HOPE AND A FUTURE**

“We have confidence and will not be ashamed before Jesus when He comes” [**1 John 2:28**].

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been be revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is”

[**1 John 3:2**]

**THE FATHER GIVES US VICTORY OVER SIN**

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” [**1 John 3:8**]

**\*\*** The story of the curse placed on our house in Bangkalan.

As we abide in Him, He gives us the ability to lead a pure and holy life [**1 John 2:29; 3:3; 3:5**]

**1 John 3:6-9** – John does not teach perfectionism; otherwise he would contradict himself [see **1:8-10; 2:1**]. Christians might commit an occasional act of sin, but they are not characterized by the spirit of lawlessness [**verse 4**].

“Holiness is not the inability to sin, but the glorious ability not to sin” [Eric Maddison].

**THE FATHER FILLS US WITH HIS LOVE**

See **1 John 3:10b** – we are called to love one another. Much of the remainder of 1 John 3 is about the imperative of love [**verses 10-15**] and the outworking of love [**verses 16-23**].

**\*\*** The story of Esther and the men who attacked her