ALL CHILDREN ARE PRECIOUS TO GOD

March 4, 2018 Luke 18:15-17

 Dear Friends in Christ: Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to suffer and die for the sins of us all. As was His practice, He was always teaching His disciples as well as others as He traveled along.

 Time is getting short for Jesus to prepare His disciples to take up His ministry after He fulfills His mission and returns to His Father. Of course, His disciples know nothing of all this, in that they do not yet comprehend what the mission of Jesus really is.

 As you read the Gospels, it is clear that much of the time as Jesus travels around, He is followed by crowds who have heard of Him and all that He has done. On this particular day people start to bring their little children to Jesus so that He can bless them.

 The disciples, for whatever reason, stop the people from bringing their kids to Jesus. Jesus sees it happening and He tells the disciples to let the children come to Him and do nothing to stop them.

 Then Jesus uses these little ones to make a point to all about how one receives the Kingdom of God, how one gets in to heaven.

 Jesus says: “for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” Now, this cannot mean that only little children will receive the gift of the kingdom of heaven. For John 3:16 says that whosoever believes will not perish but have eternal life.

 Then Jesus puts in this clincher: “Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

 There is a difference between knowing about Jesus and trusting in Him for the salvation of your soul. Little children who cannot fend for themselves put total trust in mom or dad. When a baby is baptized into the Christian faith, there is no doubt there; just the Holy Spirit working faith in this little baby.

 Sin has not yet developed in them to such a degree as to produce conscious resistance to the power of divine grace. What God calls upon all Christians to resist is the power and influence of the devil. James tells us in his letter to resist the devil and he will flee from you.

 A Christian gets himself in spiritual hot water when he lets himself be drawn away from the way of Christian living he learned as a child to engage in sinful living; going with the crowd; doing things that please the flesh but kill the spirit.

 How precious is that time when children are in the home under the influence of godly parents and are taken to Sunday School and church to hear the Word of God that will guide them in their formative years.

 Parents----you are to be commended for bringing your children to Jesus here, just as the parents in our text brought their little ones to see Jesus and receive His blessing.

 In doing this, you are following the words of Moses in Deuteronomy 6:7 where he says to the people of Israel: “And these words I command you this day shall be on your heart. You shall teach them to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

 These words are the words of God. The Christian home is the first line of defense against the wiles of the devil. You are to teach your children by your words and by your example. They will do and say what you do and say.

 Do not all parents want the best for their children? The best and greatest gift any parent can give a child is to bring them to Jesus thru baptism and make sure their feet are on the path that leads to heaven. The writer of Proverbs wrote this gem just for the parents: “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

 You know----we were all young once. It is only by the grace of God that any of us have come to faith, stayed in the faith and are confidently sure that heaven is our home----not because we have been so good----but that God has been so good to us in sending His only Son Jesus Christ to earth to take all of our sins to the cross of Calvary.

 All of us—children and adults, young and old, are God’s precious children. We gather here in His house, as our parents and their parents have done; as the whole Christian family has done for centuries, to give thanks and praise to our heavenly Father for the great love He has showered upon us in the person of His Son Jesus.

 And every Sunday as we listen to God, He is preparing us for the one-way trip to our heavenly home. May God continue to bless our families, our church family and our Sunday School and youth ministries.