

Preacher's Pen points

“Is This Really Mine?”



Many of life's experiences present opportunities for insight into God and His relationship to us, but none more profoundly than the birth of a child. Tuesday night we rejoiced in the birth of our first grand-daughter, Hannah, born to Eva and Brian. As we prepared to make our way home, the nurses brought that tiny bundle back to the room for the evening. Brian cradled her in his arms saying, “Is this really mine? Is this really mine?”

Almost every parent has embraced their newborn baby with that same “pinch-me-I'm-dreaming” wonder. Words cannot express how much we cherish the experience of holding in our arms the child God has given us; and how dear they are to us at that moment! We can hardly imagine that we could love them more than at that moment when we are holding them for the first time.

Our Loving Heavenly Father

On the way home my thoughts turned to God. I wondered in my mind if He possessed the same delight in that newborn baby that we felt. After all, every child born on this earth is also His child! I could not help but believe that though He is the father of billions of children, He never grows tired of the experience. Each child born in this world is His creation with its own unique features and destiny. And I have no doubt that each one of them is cherished by Him, just as they are by their earthly parents.

I then began to think about how God must feel when some of those children are never allowed to see the light of day, their lives terminated before

they've hardly begun. I thought about how God must feel when those who do come into this world are mistreated and abused. And I wondered about how God felt when these innocent creatures are made to stumble and turn away from the Father who created them. On this point, there can be no doubt; for Jesus issued this warning: “...but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea. (Mt. 18:5-6).

“...shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? (Heb. 12:9)

His Loving Provision

Out of His fatherly love God issues His commands which He intended “for our good always” (Deut. 6:24). He never intended that any of His creatures suffer the ravages of sin and unbelief.

Yet somewhere in life we lose sight of His love. Satan convinces us that He really doesn't care that much and that His instructions can be ignored without consequence. And those that God made for life and happiness are spiritually destroyed, and His heart must be breaking! But even so, even when men have spurned His love, He has not ceased to love each of His creatures and seek to restore them to the rightful place for which they were created.

Don't Forget His Love

And so it might do us all a lot of good, if in the moment of our own paternal joy, we would remember that there is also a Father looking on from above whose delight is even greater than our own and who might also be saying, “Is this really mine? Is this really mine?” —Johnny Felker