

# SONS

By

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*“The Creation waits for the revealing of the Sons of God”* (Rom. 8:19).

Cuban exile invasion force obliterated! Rebellion in Viet Nam! Bloodshed in Yemen! Israeli planes shot down over Saudi Arabia! Racial violence in Alabama! A world in convulsion! 2,000,000 suicides in one year! People on the move, yet never satisfied. (In Lubbock, Texas, the postmaster of a small substation showed me a stack of change-of-address cards six inches high and all for one month.) Millions that are not on the move geographically are plunging into every conceivable form of recreation and pleasure in the attempt to find something, trying to satisfy a longing, hoping to fill a vacuum that seems bottomless.

Why, People keep asking? What is the reason for the sudden convulsion of humanity? Where is it leading? Where will it end? Why? Why? Why?

There **IS** a reason, and there **IS** an answer. God has given it. Read what He says: “For the creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but by reason of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now” (Romans 8:20-22).

When God said, “Let us make man in our own image,” He knew exactly what He wanted. After the creation he looked upon His work and saw “that it was good.” Obviously God was pleased with perfect man in a perfect paradise, in harmony and fellowship with the Creator.

But having been given the godly attribute of freedom of will, man sought his own pattern of life and departed from the will of God. In departing from the Creator’s intent and purpose he defeated his OWN purpose, to live in joy and peace in the world which God had prepared and given to his care. Wrenching himself free from the Creator, a right given him by God, man also broke away from the Creator’s power and perfect design, and thus became a confused and dying man, lost in his own inadequate design.

And not only did man foul up the design for his own life and lose the power and right to live in an undying state, but since he was given dominion over the whole creation, he took it into this chaotic state also. The creation, the realm of nature and the animal world, could rise no higher than the man who ruled over it. Thus the “bondage of corruption” to which man had voluntarily given himself became the condition for the whole world. Therefore the Scripture says that “the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now.”

A world having thrown out its Creator, having crucified His only begotten Son, and having trampled under foot the very revelation of His instructions on how to operate; such a world is bound to end up in chaos and destruction.

In the meantime men go on searching. They search the skies, space, the microbe, the atom, and the human mind. What is man looking for? He doesn't realize it, but what he is really seeking is revealed by God in the text: "For the earnest expectation of the creation waits for the revealing of the sons of God" (Romans 8:10).

Yes, the answer to the gigantic puzzle is right back where it all began, when God said, "Let us make man in our own image." This is what God wanted to begin with, and He will not be satisfied until His creative goal is attained in a final and eternal state.

And the process is going on right now! God's creative process! "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you received not the spirit of bondage again unto fear; but you received, the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified with him" (Romans 8:14-17). This text is speaking to Christians — you, who by faith have turned your life back to the Creator and His purpose.

So the process is going on. Wherever a man believes the gospel and repents and is baptized into the death of Jesus, he begins the process of being recreated in the image of God, as a full-fledged son of God. And one day all these true sons of God will be glorified WITH HIM. After all, if we are joint heirs with Christ, this can only mean that we shall inherit equally with Christ. As he was raised, up from the grave and made immortal (and "he only has immortality" at the present time (1 Timothy 6:16), so will all the sons of God be resurrected to immortality just like Jesus.

This was the plan of God to begin with. It was interrupted by man's sin and rebellion, but one by one, here and there, unrecognized by the world, quietly and steadily proceeding day by day, men are being restored to this plan of son-ship and immortality. The day will come when all the sons and daughters of God will be glorified, and it will be revealed then what all the world is seeking. At that time, and not until then, will the chaos and clamor, the bloodshed and convulsion end.

The plan of God really has very little to do with the modern religious organization called "the church." Of course God, through Christ, continues to build His church wherever true believers enter into fellowship with Him and with each other. But the general concept of a social group which seeks the world's recognition, which joins forces with unbelievers, which compromises the purpose of God and relies upon material wealth and numerical strength for its power may have little to do with the fulfillment of God's plan. **What He is after is SONS!**

What God wants is obedient children who reflect the parental image. What He will reveal is not mammoth church building that knocks your eyes out because of their size and expensive trimmings and the prestige personnel, but the personal glorification of individuals in the very image and likeness of God, patterned after the resurrected and glorified Christ.

The question then will not be “Are you a member of this or that Church?” The question then and **NOW** is “**Are you a son?**”

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