**R914\_Rumination for July 31, 2022**

The **T**heme: **Who We Are**[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us,*

 *that we should be* ***Called Children of God!*** I Jn. 3:1, NKJV

The **T**hots:

1. **We are Called the Children of God.**
2. **W**ho we **W**ere Before. Eph. 2:11-12, NKJV
3. *Remember that you, once* ***G****entiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision*

*by what is called the* ***C****ircumcision made in the flesh by hands—*

1. *that at that time you were without* ***C****hrist, being aliens from the* ***C****ommonwealth of Israel*

 *and strangers from the* ***C****ovenants of promise, having no hope and without* ***G****od in the world.*

1. **W**hat We Are Now
2. We are **C**alled **C**hildren (Sons and Daughters) of God. 1 Jn. 3:1, NKJV

*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!*

1. Just as Jesus Christ is the Son of God –
* *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;* Mk. 1:1
* *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.* Jn. 20:31
* *Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God*. I Jn. 4:15
1. And Jesus Christ is God – *We know that the Son of God is come…and we are in Him that is true,*

 *even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life*. I Jn. 5:20

 Cf. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*. Jn. 1:1

1. And we are the **B**rethren of Jesus, Jesus **B**eing the First**B**orn among many **B**rethren. Rom. 8:29

*For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son,*

 *that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

1. He now calls us **B**rethren – His **B**rothers and sisters. Matt. 12:48-50

*He answered and said…Who is My mother? and who are My brethren?*

*And He stretched forth His hand toward His disciples, and said, Behold My mother and My brethren!*

*For whosoever shall do the will of My Father…the same is My brother, and sister, and mother.*

1. He is not Ashamed to Call us **B**rethren. Heb. 2:11, 12, 17
*For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare Thy name unto My brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee.*

*Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*

1. **We are also Heirs with Christ*.* How?**
2. First Qualification – we are **C**hildren of God.

*And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;* Rom. 8:17

*Thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.* Gal. 4:7

1. Second Qualification *–* we are **C**hrist’s.Gal. 3:29

*And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

1. Third Qualification – we are members of the **C**hurch. Eph. 3:6

*That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ*

*by the gospel:*

1. Fourth Qualification – we have been **C**leansed and justified by His Grace. Tit*. 3:7*

*That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

1. Fifth Qualification *–* God promised it by *His* ***C****ounsel and* ***C****onfirmed it by an oath:* Heb. 6:17
2. *Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of* *promise*

 *the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:*

1. *Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith,*

*and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love Him?* Jas. 2:5

1. **We are Commissioned Witnesses of Christ. Matt***.* **28:18-20**
2. *Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.*

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son,*

*and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:*

*and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

1. *Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* Acts 1:8
2. We are *a holy priesthood…to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* I Pet. 2:5, NKJV
3. We are *a royal priesthood…*[to] *proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness*

*into His marvelous light*; I Pet. 2:9, NKJV

*What you are Speaks so loud That the world can't hear what you say.*

*They're looking at your walk, Not listening to your talk,*

 *They're judging from your actions every day…* Author Unknown

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 914**

1. Can we ever fathom or comprehend fully the amazing love and condescension of God for Him to send His Son to become Man in the Person of Jesus Christ? – For Him to go through the redemptive process in taking our place, to be punished for our sin to the extent of dying for us on the cross (Phil. 2:6-8) in order to make us His children (sons and daughters) of God even as Jesus is His Son?

Not only that, but we are also bequeathed to be heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ

(I Jn. 3:1; Rom. 8:17; Gal. 4:7).

This is indeed something beyond our human comprehension.

Thus, Paul prays in awe, and may it be our prayer too? -

***Ephesians 3:14-21***

*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

*That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,*

*to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man;*

*That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;*

*that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

*May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth,*

*and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge,*

*that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

*Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,*

*according to the power that worketh in us,*

*Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.* **REFLECT**

1. When I was a Sunday School kid, one of my favourite choruses was the one attached below. Even today, the words are very meaningful and they challenge us to a Christ-like life to be lived out in the community we live.

Do go through the words carefully and see how they challenge you to live a life befit a Christian Citizen in your Community:

*If you have the name of Jesus,*

*If you're known as one of His,*

*Remember that the world is watching*

*To see what your victory is?*

[Refrain] *What you are Speaks so loud*

*That the world can't hear what you say.*

*They're looking at your walk,*

*Not listening to your talk,*

*They're judging from your actions every day*

*Don't believe You'll deceive*

*By claiming what you've never known.*

*They'll accept what they see and know you to be;*

*They'll judge from your life alone.*

 *Walk worthy of your holy calling,*

 *Bring praise to His blessed name,*

 *Lest He, through you, should be dishonored*

 *And your deeds should bring Him shame (should bring Him shame).*

Philippians 1:27 (NKJV) – *Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ…*

I John 3:18 – *My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue;*

 *but in deed and in truth.* **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** ***W****hat* ***W****e Are is not* ***W****hat* ***W****e Say nor* ***W****hat Others See*

 *but* ***W****hat We* ***D****o in* ***D****eed and Be.*