

Father

Jason A. Graham: The Disciples' Prayer Series

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV) ⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

This prayer, taught to the Disciples by Jesus, can lead us into revelation about God and about ourselves.

Contents

Father	1
We Are Sons	2
By the Father's Will	2
Are we Sons like Jesus?.....	2
How Are We Made into Children of God?.....	3
Becoming Sons has its Benefits	3
It Makes Us Heirs.....	3
It Frees Us from the Law.....	4
The Correct View of the Father	5
Sons of Disobedience	7
The Discipline of the Father.....	8
Sons, Servants, Friends?	9
An Awesome Promise.....	9
In Summary.....	10
Further Reading.....	11

Father

The fact that Jesus told us to prayer to our Father reveals at least 4 things to us:

- Reveals God's Relationship to Us

- Reveals God's Heart
- Reveals what our View of God should be
- Reveals that we are accepted as Sons.

We Are Sons

Jesus is our Brother (Hebrews 2:12). We have the same Father that He has, and we are to think of God as our Father. We are given a Spirit that wants to cry out to God as our Father.

By the Father's Will

God planned to make us Sons.

John 1:12-13 (NIV)

¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right [or the power] to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Romans 9:24-26 (NIV)

²⁴ even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? ²⁵ As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one," ²⁶ and, "It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

- God made us Sons by His own decision
- He planned it from long ago
- First it was for the Jews only, but Jesus made adoption available to us all

Are we Sons like Jesus?

John 3:16 (NKJV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- "Begotten" means "of the same kind"
- In other words, Jesus is the only Son who is God – He is of the "same kind" as God Himself.
- What type of Children does that make us then?
 - We are made God's children fully with the Same Spirit as Jesus Himself:

Romans 8:14-19 (NIV)

¹⁴ ...those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. ¹⁸ I

consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

How Are We Made into Children of God?

Galatians 3:26-29 (NIV)

²⁶You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- How are we made Sons of God?
 - Through Faith in Jesus
 - **Romans 8:14 (NIV)** ...those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
 - This doesn't mean that being led by the Spirit MAKES us the Sons of God.
 - We are made the Sons of God through faith in Jesus alone
 - Only those who have been made into Sons of God can be led by the Spirit of God.

Becoming Sons has its Benefits

The scriptures point out some awesome things that come to us when we become Sons of God.

It Makes Us Heirs

Romans 8:17 (NIV) Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Galatians 3:29 (NIV) If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Heirs of what? The inheritance of Jesus. Co-heirs: meaning sharing in equal part.

What is the inheritance of Jesus? All things.

Hebrews 1:1-2:18 (NIV) ¹In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? ⁶And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." ⁸But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." ¹⁰He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ¹¹They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹²You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end." ¹³

To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? ¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? ¹ We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ² For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³ how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. ⁵ It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? ⁷ You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor ⁸ and put everything under his feet." In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹² He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." ¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." ¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

It Frees Us from the Law

Galatians 3:26 - 4:9, 21-31 (NIV)

²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. ¹ What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ² He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. ³ So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. ⁴ But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. ⁶ Because you are sons, *God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts*, the Spirit who calls out, "*Abba, Father.*" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. ⁸ Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that you know God--or rather are known by God--how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

²¹ Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. ²³ His son by the slave

woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise.²⁴ These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar.²⁵ Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.²⁶ But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.²⁷ For it is written: "Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labor pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."²⁸ Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.²⁹ At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.³⁰ But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son."³¹ Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

- We are not Bondservants
- We were born to God as free Children of the Heavenly Jerusalem
- We are Children of Promise
- We are not to try to Earn anything from God by keeping a Law
- How do we get free from this idea of being bondservants?
 - We get a correct view of the Father

The Correct View of the Father

So many people have an incorrect view of the Father God because of the poor example set by their earthly Father. This is a tactic of the enemy planned from long ago. We need to overcome this plot by understanding that our Father God is different from our earthly Father...especially in the fact that He is perfect and loves us perfectly.

Jesus gave us this story that truly describes what our Father God is like:

Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it.

Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ "My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

- What do we learn from this story?
 - First we have a son who is completely uncontrolled and wasteful of the blessing of his Father.
 - Secondly, we have a Father who is completely forgiving and accepting.
 - Thirdly, we have a brother who is jealous and self-righteous.
- The Prodigal Son
 - This son wasted his inheritance
 - What he asked for was basically saying, "Father, I wish that you were already dead so that I could have what is coming to me when you are gone."
 - After taking full advantage of his Father's willingness to give and wasting away his life, he comes to his senses.
 - He began to think of how the Servants in his Father's house had it so much better than he did now.
 - He planned to go and beg to become a Servant to his Father.
- The Father
 - This Father loves his son so much that as he sees him coming down the road he runs to him and throws his arms around him in a loving embrace
 - The Robe
 - A position of Honor
 - The Ring
 - A place as His son
 - The Sandals
 - A place to Stand
 - The Fattened Calf
 - A sacrifice for Him
 - A celebration of His son's return
 - Notice that this Father completely ignored the attempted speech of the son.
 - He wasn't concerned with the son's gravelling and self-pity
 - He Was concerned with the son's return
 - The Father's love could not be overcome by rebelliousness
 - The Son's place in the Father's heart had not been demoted
 - He had always still been a son
 - He didn't have to beg or plead
 - He didn't have to walk the line to regain his Father's approval

- He could have done nothing to try to earn the Father's Love or Blessing because he already had them both.
 - HE WAS A SON!!!
 - The Father would not have accepted him as a Servant.
- The Jealous Brother
 - The self-righteous one
 - Who had never wandered away in rebellion
 - Was angry that the Father was so accepting
 - Thought that he had been cheated
 - The Father pointed out that everything of the Father's had been his all along. HE WAS AN HEIR, AND DIDN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS HIS AT ALL TIMES.
 - This son was living by all the "rules" that he thought he had to live by, but he never lived in the fullness of being a Son
 - He was too caught up in earning something. "I've slaved away for you."
 - He was acting like a Hireling instead of a Son.
 - What did he lack? THANKFULNESS. He apparently lived in such a self-righteous earning mentality that he had not developed a Thankful heart, and he was working to earn instead of working as a son who loved his Father.
 - A thankful heart would have rejoiced with and embraced his brother right along with the Father.
 - This jealous brother is just like the religious people who will be angry at you for claiming to have this much freedom in the Father
 - What they don't understand is that they have all the same freedom as you – they are just not living in it because of ignorance
 - I don't want you to be ignorant.

Sons of Disobedience

A sober warning does need to be sounded. You can be a Son of Disobedience according to the Bible. We don't need to be like the Prodigal Son when he left...we need to be like him after he returned and realized his place. From there we can begin to Serve as a Son.

Ephesians 5:1-21 (NKJV)

¹Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ²And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. ³But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the **sons of disobedience**. ⁷Therefore do not be partakers with them. ⁸For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. ¹⁴Therefore He

says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

- Colossians 3:1-17 gives us a very similar admonition
- So, what are we to do?
 - Accept God as your Father
 - Live your life with a desire to be like Him
 - He will do the work in you, and we make the conscious decision to avoid the deeds of darkness
 - One of the main ways He does this is through Discipline

The Discipline of the Father

God will help us to walk the correct path. This has nothing to do with us having to earn a place as His children.

Hebrews 12:5-11 (NIV)

⁵ And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." ⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! ¹⁰ Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

- What is the discipline of the Father? Hardship that is designed to try our faith.
 - **James 1:2-4 (NIV)** ² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
 - I believe that hardship from the Father refers to things that cause us to grow up and mature spiritually as our faith is tried.
 - It is not "Discipline" from the Father if you lose your job because you could never show up on time or if you get sick because you scarfed down too many nacho chips at the Mexican restaurant.
- The fact that the Father Disciplines us should be and Encouragement to Us.
 - This is what keeps us from being Sons of Disobedience
- God Disciplines us BECAUSE he has accepted us as His sons and daughters.
- It trains us and brings us a "harvest of righteousness"

Sons, Servants, Friends?

Some people point out that we are often called servants in the Bible. Even the Apostle Paul referred to himself as a servant, even a bondservant, of Jesus.

Yes, we are servants, but we Serve out of Love as dear Children (Eph. 5:1). We are Sons and Daughters who serve. We are not Servants who are adopted. A Son serves out of Love, but a Servant serves out fear, or to earn a wage, or to gain acceptance, or from being forced. SONS ARE NOT HIRLINGS!

Jesus chooses to not call His disciples servants – rather He calls them Friends.

John 15:14-16 (NIV)

¹⁴You are my friends *if you do what I command*. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

- And what does He command?

Matthew 22:35-40 (NIV)

³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

- All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two things.
- If we are to do the work of God, then what is it?
 - **John 6:29** – Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."
- The overwhelming witness of Scripture is this:
 - God is our Father
 - He has made us His children
 - We have all the rights that any Son or Daughter should without earning anything.

An Awesome Promise

1 John 3:1-3 (NIV)

¹How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

- Because we have been made into sons we will one day be just like Him, and He is awesome.

In Summary

- The fact that Jesus told us to pray “Father” reveals at least 4 things to us:
 - God’s relationship to us
 - God’s Heart
 - What our View of God should be
 - That we are accepted as Sons
- Are we Sons Like Jesus?
 - Jesus is the Only Begotten Son, which means the Son that is “of the same kind” as the Father. (John 3:16)
 - This is saying that Jesus is a Son who is also God.
 - We have been adopted as Sons (Romans 8:14-19)
 - We have the full rights that Jesus has—having been made co-heirs with Him to all that the Father has.
 - However, we are not God like Jesus is.
- It was the Father’s will to have Sons (John 1:12,13 and Romans 9:24-26)
 - He chose us—we did not choose Him.
 - We didn’t convince Him to love us.
 - He convinces (convicts) us to love Him.
- How are we made into sons of God?
 - Through Faith—no other way (Galatians 3:26-29)
- Becoming Sons of God makes us heirs and frees us from the Law (Galatians 4:1-9, 21-31)
 - We are free children of God, born of the Heavenly Jerusalem
 - How do we get free from the idea of being bondservants?
 - We get a correct view of the Father...
- The Correct View of the Father
 - The Story of the Prodigal Son reveals our Father God to us (Luke 15:11-32)
 - This Father would not even listen to the Sons speech that he had prepared to try and convince his Father to receive him back.
 - The Father just received him back with great joy, great love, and great pleasure.
 - The sons place in the Father’s heart had not been demoted.
- Sons of Disobedience (Ephesians 5:1-21, Colossians 3:1-17)
 - It is possible to be judged as a Son of Disobedience according to the Word of God.
 - It would be wrong not to point this out.
 - So, what are we to do?
 - Simply accept God as our Father
 - Live our lives with a desire to be like Him
 - He will do the work in us
 - We need to have confidence in His love and in the fact that we do not need to be ashamed before Him
 - Shame will always lead to sin—NOT holiness
 - One of the main ways that God works on us as Sons is through His Discipline:
- The Discipline of the Father (Hebrews 12:5-11)
 - This is God helping us to walk the right path and not us earning a place as His children
 - If God accepts you as a Son, then He will discipline you.
 - The scripture tells us that this is to be a word of encouragement.
 - This is what keeps us from being Sons of Disobedience.

- It trains us and brings us a “harvest of righteousness.”
- Sons, Servants, Friends?
 - We are Sons who Serve out of Love.
 - Not Servants who gain a position as Sons.
 - Jesus Himself chooses to call us Friends, not servants (John 15:14-16)
 - Because as His Friends He reveals His plans to us.
 - He says that a Master does not reveal His plans to a servant.
- An Awesome Promise (I John 3:1-3)
 - Just as any son wants to be like His Father—we want to be like our Father God.
 - In this passage of scripture we learn that when we see Him, then we shall be fully like Him.
 - Being like Him is our desire now, and it will be completely fulfilled upon His return.

Further Reading

Psalms 82:1-8 (NIV) ¹God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgment among the "gods": ²"How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? Selah ³Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. ⁴Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. ⁵"They know nothing, they understand nothing. They walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. ⁶"I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' ⁷But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler." ⁸Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are your inheritance.

<http://www.gotquestions.org/you-are-gods.html>

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/rebuilding-some-basics-of-bethlehem-the-centrality-of-the-glory-of-god>