

[#1] INTRODUCTION TO THE COGPOD

A JOURNEY INTO ROM 8:4-17

Welcome to the very first podcast, the maiden voyage, if you will, of "THE COG POD", short for The Children Of God Podcast, hence, [COGPOD] and I am your host, Ed Nelms; but I prefer, brother Ed. So, what is the mission of the COGPOD? At the COGPOD, we are convinced that the Children of God are scattered amongst all humanity. Jesus alluded to them at Mt 13:37-43 when He said; **37**He replied, "The One who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. **38**The field is the world, and the good seed represents the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, **39**and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. **40**As the weeds are collected and burned in the fire, so will it be at the end of the age. **41**The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will weed out of His kingdom every cause of sin and all who practice lawlessness. **42**And they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **43**Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. [BSB]

The true children of God encompasses a great crowd that's described in Rev 7:9 this way; **9**After this I looked and saw a multitude too large to count, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. [BSB] The true children of God come from every nation, tribe, people and tongue; and they do not, belong to this world, as our master Jesus made clear at Jo 15:18&19 where He said; **18**"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. **19**If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. [NIV] And again at Jo 17:14-16 Where our master reiterated when praying to his Father regarding us; **14**I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. **15**My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. **16**They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. [NIV] The children of God are thus truly misfits when it comes to this world. We routinely experience what our brother Peter describes at 1 Pet 4:2-4; **2**From now on, then, you must live the rest of your earthly lives controlled by God's will and not by human desires. **3**You have spent enough time in the past doing what the heathen like to do. Your lives were spent in indecency, lust, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and the disgusting worship of idols. **4**And now the heathen are surprised when you do not join them in the same wild and reckless living, and so they insult you.[GNT] As a child of God, when you condemn the things mentioned in this scripture as well as 1 Cor. 6:9&10 which reads; **9**Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to or perform homosexual acts, **10**nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.[BSB] And then there's Ro 1:24-27 which says; **24**So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. **25**They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. **26**That is why God

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abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. **27**And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. [NLT] When you, as a child of God, quote what the BIBLE says about such conduct, today, many, many churchgoers will condemn YOU and not the ones who practice such things. They will refer to YOU as being holier than thou. Or say things like, oooh, so you're perfect huh? They will embrace the practicers of such sins, and reject you, because you quote what God's word the bible says about those who practice such sins. That's just where the world is today, and the true children of God want no part of it, and are no part of it in obedience to our master Jesus who said that His followers would be, no part of this world. That is why many of the true children of God no longer attend any religious services. At the COGPOD we understand why. That's why we put forth every effort to focus on the more important things as 1 Thess 5:21 admonishes us when it says; **21**but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. [NLT] At the COGPOD we test everything that is said and we put forth every effort to hold on to what is good. That's why we focus, I mean really focus, on 'WHAT JEHOVAH GOD, HIS FIRSTBORN SON JESUS, and His word the Bible, in the power of the Holy Spirit, have to say, because we know that everything, they say is good, and we encourage all the anointed Children of God, to strictly obey, which is, of course, already their earnest desire. We specify the anointed children of God because Jehovah is at the center of the anointing process, while on the other hand, human beings are at the center of the ordination process. Being anointed and being ordained are two completely different things. One of the definitions of 'anointed' is 'to be chosen by divine election.' That's what Jehovah does and He is the only one who can. The anointing process, is by invitation only. It is not automatically granted to all intelligent creatures. The basis for being anointed by Jehovah is beautifully and simply expressed in the 15th Psalm which says; 1 O Jehovah, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? 2The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; 3whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; 4who despises a vile person but honors those who fear Jehovah; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; 5who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken. If this Psalm is a description of your character, it's because you, are most likely, an anointed child of God. It's because you, out of love for Him, choose to obey our Father in Heaven, Jehovah. In turn, Jehovah chooses you as His child. Those who are ordained are recognized and chosen by humans, but those who are anointed, are recognized and chosen by Jehovah, because He knows they are His children. From the Garden of Eden forward, Jehovah has made it very clear that to obey Him means life and to disobey Him means death. Obedience is the means by which we stay connected to Jehovah. Down to this very day nothing has changed, and it never will. It is as He stated through Moses at Deut.30:11-20 from the American Standard version of 1901. First we'll read vss 11-14; **11**For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not too hard for thee,

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neither is it far off. **12**It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it? **13**Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it? **14**But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. From the garden of Eden forward the scriptural record bears the truthfulness of these words. The commandment that Jehovah laid on Adam and Eve was not too hard for them, neither was it far off. They didn't have to go up to heaven or cross the sea to get it. Eve demonstrated the word was in her own mouth when she quoted it to the serpent. The real issue in the garden and today is found in vs 15 & 16 which reads; **15**See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; **16**in that I command thee this day to love Jehovah thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his ordinances, that thou mayest live and multiply, and that Jehovah thy God may bless thee in the land whither thou goest in to possess it.[ASV] The real issue and the real choice, then and now, is actually, life and death. Obedience to Jehovah and Jesus means life, and disobedience to Jehovah and Jesus means death. As vs 17 highlights, Eve's heart turned away from Jehovah and she was drawn away to serve the original Serpent, the God Satan, **17**But if thy heart turn away, and thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; The result of her actions were realized in vs **18**I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish; ye shall not prolong your days in the land, whither thou passest over the Jordan to go in to possess it. As a result of her disobedience, she died, as Jehovah said she would, along with her husband Adam, who also disobeyed. They did not prolong their days in the land which Jehovah had given them, the planet Earth, to fill and subdue, in love and peace forever. Instead, Satan convinced Eve, that Jehovah doesn't really mean what He says. And that is still his principle means of deceiving mankind down to this very day. But please believe me when I tell you, Jehovah means exactly what He says. So, if you want to save yourself, those you love, and those who will listen to you, the only question of any real consequence is: WHAT DID JEHOVAH SAY? In vss 19 & 20, Jehovah calls on a couple of witnesses regarding the fact that He means what He says, following up with the benefits and consequences of our choices. There He states; **19**I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse: therefore choose life, that thou mayest live, thou and thy seed; **20**to love Jehovah thy God, to obey his voice, and to cleave unto him; for he is thy life, and the length of thy days; that thou mayest dwell in the land which Jehovah swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.[ASV]

You may have noted that I quoted from the American Standard 1901 Version rendition of Deut. 30. That's because it's one of the very few translations that properly translates in all the places where God's name, Jehovah, is found in the Hebrew text. ALL credible translation committees know that the name of God actually appears nearly 7000 times in what most call the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures. Therefore, I have a question to all translation committees: Why are you consistently mistranslating the word of God. Why

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would you knowingly and willfully take Almighty God Jehovah's name out of His book where He placed it? There is a clearly stated curse found in the Holy Scriptures that every translation committee should soberly consider. Anyone, anybody, in whatever translation, that takes the name of almighty God Jehovah out in all its clear occurrences, and replaces it with a capital LORD, has to answer to Jehovah as to why they do. Look at Deut. 4:2; **2**Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish from it, that ye may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God which I command you.[ASV] Now Deut 12:32; **32**What thing soever I command you, that shall ye observe to do: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.[ASV] Next Prov 30:6; **6**Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.[NIV]

And finally Rev. 22:18,19; **18**I testify to everyone who hears the words of prophecy in this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. **19**And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and the holy city, which are described in this book. [BSB] So what you have done, and are doing, is between you and Jehovah. Please remember though that, cursed is anyone who adds to or takes away. Let me state clearly that I use and appreciate the many translations of the Bible made available to mankind today, as you will see me quote from a variety of them thanks to biblehub.com, which is in my opinion, is the greatest bible research website of the 21st century. I have great respect for the scholarship and hard work exhibited in these translations. Nevertheless, removing Jehovah's name greatly distorts ones' understanding of the foundation cornerstone of what the Bible teaches. So, for me, whenever I quote a scripture from any number of translations, which I will, wherever the name Jehovah occurs in the Hebrew text, I'm going to cite His name everywhere He placed it. So, when I quote from various translations, wherever there is a capital LORD, I will cite, accurately, the name Jehovah. I will never take the liberty of removing our father's name where He placed it, in His book, and replace the most illustrious name in the universe with capital LORD. We will deal with the importance of using and respecting His name in a future podcast. The remainder of this podcast will use as its foundation Romans chapter 8 verses 4-17 to clearly identify those who make up the children of God.

THE CHILDREN OF GOD ARE THOSE WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT [Rom 8:14]

So says Rom 8:14; **14**For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God.[NASB] This, is of the utmost importance for all of us who wish to be the sons and daughters of God. But what does this mean and how is it possible? Let's consider two scriptures in Isaiah. The first is Isa48:17; **17**Thus saith Jehovah, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am Jehovah thy God, who teacheth thee to profit, who leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. [ASV] Here, Jehovah promises to teach us and to lead us. At Isa 30:21 He again gives us that assurance in these words; **21**Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left. [NLT] Isn't that a lot like 21st century mankind relying on GPS? We Find our way to destinations we've never been to before

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in our lives, in the quickest, safest way possible, through technologies most of us don't even understand, yet we trust it, don't we. Isn't that what we get from man-made GPS? Well, mankind's Creator, Jehovah God, has made that kind of technology available to man from the garden of Eden forward. We are all engineered with it. As Rom 2:14,15 aptly puts it, **14**Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. **15**They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. [NLT] How is that anything but moral GPS, made available to ALL humans EVERYWHERE? The Children of God have a common goal as the apostle Peter points out at 1 Pet 1:9; **9**now that you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.[BSB] Even though we all have the same common destination, we don't all start out from the same place. Some of us start out from extreme poverty, some of us start out from wealth. Some of us start out racially oppressed, some of us start out racially privileged. Some of us start out male, some of us start out female. All of us start out with a unique DNA with predisposed leanings, including identical twins, and they differ with their individual life experiences and even their fingerprints. Some of us come from abuses that only Jehovah knows about, and the effect that abuse has had on the trajectory of our lives. Whether it was mental, emotional, psychological, physical or sexual. How thankful we can be that our loving Father Jehovah, takes all those starting points into consideration with each of us, individually, as evidenced by what he says to us at Ps 32:8; **8** I will instruct you and show you the way to go; with My eye on you, I will give counsel. [CBS] The promise here, is for individual guidance from Almighty God Jehovah in the best way for us, as individuals, according to our individual life circumstances. However if want to benefit from His guidance, we have an individual responsibility as outlined in vs 9; **9**Do not be like a horse or mule, without understanding, that must be controlled with bit and bridle or else it will not come near you.[HCSB] GPS from Jehovah is a not a global positioning system but a Godly Positioning System, and if we don't yield to it, we will end up hopelessly lost in our quest for salvation. Jehovah knows what's best for us as individuals, and if we are wise, we will trust Him to guide us. That's why we are going to take a very close look at Romans 8:4-17 to find out how His GPS works, and how to better avail ourselves of its benefits which we will discuss in part 2. See you then.