

Sunday, October 5, 2014—Grace Life School of Theology—*Grace History Project*—Lesson 147 Sonship Edification: General Timeline and Overview of Key Concepts, Part 3

*Note: These notes are a continuation of Lessons 145 and 146 Sonship Edification: General Timeline and Overview of Key Concepts, Parts 1 and 2*

### **SE's Edification Curriculum, Cont.**

- Mark Newbold has taught almost 2,800 lessons on the book of Romans. Mike McDaniel's totals equal the following:
 

○ Justification (began 8/1/2010)	44
○ Sanctification	46
○ Orientation	122
○ Establishment (1 & 2)	68
○ Establishment (3)	34
○ Establishment (4)	22
○ Education	44 as of a few weeks ago
  
- According to SE, ones position in the heavenly places (“creature”) is directly related to the amount of Sonship Education they matriculate through in this life. In short, if one only makes it through Level 2 Phase 1, their position or “vocation” in eternity will directly correspond to how far they made it through the “curriculum.” Those who do not know about SE or fail to take it seriously are not qualified to labor with the father in “his business” and are therefore not given positions of governmental authority in the creature.
  - “And here is the kicker, the vocation you are being offered is only going to become a reality for you based upon your getting equipped for it while you are here on earth. I know that is a bit of a surprise for most saints. They think that when they get to heaven they are going to get “filled in” on whatever they missed down here. You won’t. There is no training class or remedial course in heaven for those who did not have the time or interest to gain the necessary skills under the Father’s specific tutelage while here on earth. And one more thing, if you think that working at jobs here on earth, or developing “leadership skills,” or formal or OTJ training is going to equip you to function out in the heavenly places, then you are in for the shock of your life.” (McDaniel, Sonship Orientation (5-6), page 5)
  
- Consequently, believers are taught to seek more of their Sonship Education so as to further their position in eternity than to actively look for the arrival of their blessed hope, i.e., the rapture.
  - “Let me give you an example. I used to wish the rapture would come soon. I prayed for the rapture to happen. I thought how great it would be to get out of this sin-cursed world and into heaven with Jesus and I just wished the rapture would take place. Besides, who

wouldn't rather go out in a transforming blaze of glory and immortal life instead of dying a physical death?

But now that I understand sonship and the things involved with it, I'm not in such a hurry any more. In fact, I'd rather get more of my sonship education before I go. So my "attitude" has been adjusted about that issue. Now, I'm very content to keep going down here. Instead of just waiting to be taken out at the Rapture, I'm busy getting my sonship education.

If you had told me that there was something in the Bible that, if I knew it and understood it, I wouldn't be in such a hurry for the Blessed Hope to take place, I could not have imagined what that would be. I would have denied that anything would take away my desire for the Rapture; but I would have been wrong. It's funny how proper doctrine changes your perspective (attitude) about things.

Instead of getting up every day and hoping for the Rapture, I get up every day wanting to further my sonship education." (McDaniel, Sonship Establishment (01-20), pages, 18-19)

### *The Goal of the Curriculum*

- David Winston Busch states numerous times in *More Than Conquerors* that the goal of the "curriculum" is that the Spirit might dwell in believers according to Romans 8:9.
  - "This hearkens back to what he said in Romans 8 concerning the Spirit of God "dwelling" in you. **He will begin to expand upon that issue as that is the ultimate goal and object.**" (Busch, 70)
  - "Right from the beginning you are oriented to a certain object and goal: **namely, that the ultimate desired end is that God, by His Spirit, and through a particular process desires to be "dwelling" in you.** As we'll see, that "dwelling" concept is going to be very closely linked to the issue of being 'filled'." (Busch, 94)
  - "You already know that from your sonship instruction. You know that in connection with this work going on in your inner man, your object and goal is to have that Spirit and **very life of Christ "dwelling" in you through that process of education and edification.**" (Busch, 102)
  - "(Commenting on Ephesians 3:17) **That's the object. That's the goal you were introduced to in Romans 8 dealing with your "heart" and "if so be that the Spirit of God DWELL in you" (Rom. 8:9). This is the capstone.**" (Busch, 119)
  - "With the end of Romans, the foundation has been laid. You are now prepared to build upon it. You are now prepared to go on in your education, crying Abba Father and early looking for the things that will be made known to you in connection with the revealing of

the “the mystery” (Romans 16:25). **The goal of your sonship is for the Spirit of God to “dwell” in you (Romans 8:9). Through your “transforming” edification curriculum (Romans 12:2) you will be “learning Christ” (Ephesians 4:20).** You have been designed to be “living epistles” (II Corinthians 3:2-3) and as you “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Colossians 3:16) the glorious end in view is that “Christ be formed in you” (Galatians 4:19). May it be so. Amen.” (Busch, 186)

### **Problems with the Sonship Edification (SE) Curriculum Complex**

- First, the word “curriculum” does not occur anywhere in the Bible. There is no verse in Paul’s epistles where Paul tells his readers that they should view his letters as a rigid higher order “curriculum.”
- Second, there is no verse in Paul’s epistles that would instruct one to go back to the book of Proverbs to find a “table of contents” for Paul’s epistles.
- Third, there is nothing in Proverbs 1 that establishes the various Phases and Levels of the “curriculum” articulated by SE for “Sonship Education” even in Israel’s program. This all stems from a fabricated/private definition of Biblical Adoption that is then read into and imposed upon all parts the Bible, not just Paul’s epistles.
- Fourth, SE maintains that I & II Thessalonians comprise the highest level (Level 3) in the “curriculum.” Saints who have attained unto Level 3 of the “curriculum” are ascribed the two highest “appellatives” from Proverbs 1: “wise man” and “man of understanding.”
  - “Following Colossians, we are presented with the Thessalonian epistles. By the time you reach this point in the curriculum, you’ve been instructed in all the major components of you education. . . The Thessalonians are called “ensample” saints. These are mature saints. These are saints that have gone through the curriculum and have been fully prepared having had Christ “fully preached” to them. But, in light of that, they still had a “need.” That need will be filled by the Thessalonian epistles. But again, when you get to this point the purpose is not for the introduction of new doctrine. . . So again, the introduction and presentation of doctrine has already been “fully” done by the time you get to Thessalonians. . . Returning to the Thessalonians, they are the “ensample” for all those that are “growing” in Christ and coming to that “knowledge” of Christ and “learning” Christ. So in light of all that, they already “know” the material and the only issue is now hearkening back to those “things” that they already know.” (Busch, *More Than Conquerors*, 153-155)
  - “When he speaks to the Thessalonian saints he is able to say “knowing your election and calling.” This is because they are “ensample” saints and have gone through the educational curriculum of Romans and Ephesians.” (Busch, *The Fulness of Christ*, 43)

- Fifth, given the fact that I Thessalonians is arguably either the first or second book Paul wrote, there is zero Scriptural reason for thinking that it corresponds with Level 3 (the highest) of the Sonship Curriculum. Paul did not even have anything close to a complete revelation of the doctrine pertaining to the body of Christ when he wrote I & II Thessalonians.
  - I Corinthians 13:9, 13—in I Corinthians which was written after I Thessalonians Paul is still saying that he only knows in part, i.e., he is still receiving revelation pertaining the church the body of Christ.
  - II Corinthians 12:1—Paul says that he “will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.” The verb “will come” is in the future tense. In other words, Paul knew when he was penning II Corinthians that he did not yet have a complete knowledge of all that Christ wanted his body to know.
  - II Corinthians 12:7—in II Corinthians, which was written after I Corinthians which was written after I Thessalonians which supposedly contains higher order Level 3 doctrine according to SE, Paul says that he received a thorn in the flesh on account of the “abundance of revelations” he had been receiving.
- Consequently, it makes absolutely no sense to say that I & II Thessalonians contain the highest Level of the “curriculum” when these were historically some of the first books Paul wrote. SE has the saints in Thessalonica “knowing things” when the so-called “curriculum” was only beginning to be written. Functionally this approach has the Thessalonians knowing things before Paul does.
- Sixth, SE anticipates this objection by maintaining that the Acts period gifts program (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, prophecy, tongues, and knowledge) ministering in Thessalonica would have taught the Thessalonians the doctrines contained in the Romans through Colossians portion of the “curriculum” (the greater content of which had not yet even been revealed to Paul much less written), thereby allowing the Thessalonians to attain unto the highest “appellatives” of the “curriculum” of “wise man” and “man of understanding” before Romans through Colossians were even written.
  - “As an aside, when it comes to the layout of Paul’s epistles, there are a host of connected issues dealing with the “gifts” and specifically edification gifts as they relate to the communication of the word of truth and how it was being communicated at that time versus now. We now have “that which is perfect;” that more excellent way unto edification. We have the full curriculum sitting in a book they did not. Rather, they were living during the time it was in the process of being produced. That is why we start at Romans even though Romans was not the first epistle written. But they went through the same process, and that’s really something to think about when you consider what Paul did with the Thessalonians in a rather short period of time. Those are the advanced mature saints. They didn’t go through these same books as we do, but they went through the same process.” (Busch, *More Than Conquerors*, 38-39)

- “With the arrival of “the prisoner of Jesus Christ,” Paul’s special “provocation” ministry is over, as are the sign gifts that accompanied that ministry. . . God “gave,” past tense, these edification gifts. You already know from your previous “in part” education they would be “done away”. . . There is great wisdom in how the Spirit has laid this out. For while the gifts have ceased, the corollary edification work still follows that pattern. When we reach Ephesians, the “foundation gift” has been laid both historically and doctrinally (Romans 1:1; 16:25; Ephesians 2:20; 4:11). Yes, we have “all” the knowledge,” but not until we reach this point in Ephesians. As far as the curriculum goes, if you are with the Corinthians, then you still only know “in part.” The edifying “work” that was being accomplished by the gifts still needs to be done, but it will now be done through the “more excellent way.” The saints will now labor and be “perfected” in “all wisdom” (I Corinthians 2:6; Ephesians 4:12; Colossians 1:28) in connection with the all knowledge curriculum that has been given to them through the gifts.” (Busch, *The Fulness of Christ*, 36-39)
- For me, all this is completely untenable. In order, for one to give mental assent to these notions one would have to maintain that via the functioning of the gifts in Thessalonica that the Thessalonians came to know the truths found in Romans through Colossians before they had even been revealed to Apostle of the Gentiles himself; much less written down in Paul’s epistles. This is beyond our ability to comprehend and flies in the face of a plain, common sense reading of I Corinthians 13:9, 13; II Corinthians 12:1, 7. SE’s Curriculum Complex is simply out of step with the totality of the Pauline revelation and runs contrary to the historical realities of the Acts period chronology.

### Works Cited

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