

## **My Thoughts For Sunday, 28 August 2016**

### **“Open The Eyes Of My Heart, Lord”**

“...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened...”

Ephesians 1:17-18

In May of 2001, in a hospital in Manchester, N.H., Christopher Duffley was born at 26 weeks, 1 lb. 12 oz., extremely premature. His life was touch and go for some time. He was born with cocaine in his system, blind and with many physical issues. He was placed in foster care by his parents. Later a concerned aunt, after much prayer to God, felt compelled to rescue the child as her own, her responsibility. She stated that she felt assured that she was fulfilling God’s wishes for the child. Chris, is also autistic. At an early age, Chris began playing children’s musical instruments. Chris began speaking about the time he entered first grade. It was near this time that his parents realized he was musically inclined and had perfect pitch. His favorite song is, “Open the eyes of my heart, Lord” ([watch on youtube](#)) which he sings beautifully.

Although Chris was born with severe and debilitating physical conditions, he has been given a special gift from his Lord and has no problem sharing it with the world. Too often many people have received such gifts and fail to recognize or appreciate them as gifts to be a light to this dark and sin-filled world. Chris, now at the age of 15, appears at functions for the disabled, those souls with infirmities that are not capable of doing the things he has been blessed with. He has become a light to many such souls sharing his faith and belief in his Savior to those in need. God has truly opened the eyes of his heart with the wisdom and understanding of what his Lord has done for him.

Too often children like Chris are looked upon as handicapped, when in all actuality they are very special individuals in the eyes of God. These children, if properly nurtured and taught the love of God and shown the many promises He holds out for those who love Him, could also shine with that light of Christ to this darkened world. In our text the apostle Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, recognizes the faith shown by these people. He commends them for this faith and urges them to continue to grow in the wisdom and knowledge, that their eye of understanding might be nourished. (Ephesians 1:15-23) These are the eyes Chris was praying for to be opened. Most of the world has been blessed with physical sight. It’s the spiritual sight, that wisdom and understanding of our Lord and God, that we need to have “the eyes of our heart” opened, that we might see our Lord for the salvation and redemption He has become for us. It’s the sight through the eyes of our heart where

we see, through faith and knowledge of God's Word, what is held in store for us. It's free for the taking! Jesus has promised that all who thirst for that water of life need only to reach out and accept it. *"The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life."* (Revelation 22:17) As part of the church, "the bride of Christ," we too should be holding out the offering of the water of life to all those troubled souls thirsting for the salvation of our Lord.

Many people in this world around us are born with physical impairments and are left with no one to lead them to the water of life, the saving power in knowing Jesus. Too often these souls are placed in "special homes" where they are kept alive in ignorance of their Lord. Many never hear of the salvation Jesus won for them over sin, death and the evil forces of the devil. The writer of the Psalms states; *"Who executes justice for the oppressed; Who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises up those who are bowed down; The Lord loves the righteous; The Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow, But He thwarts the way of the wicked."* (Psalm 146:7-9) If only these multitudes of people labeled "handicapped" would be accepted by society, as the children of God that they are, and shown His saving grace, given knowledge of His promises, and treated and taught as they deserve, perhaps there would be more love and less injustice in the world.

Glory be to God that children like Chris are being nurtured and in turn dedicate much of their life to spreading the hope and peace of knowing God to others who might not otherwise come into contact with His love. I believe that these physically and mentally impaired souls are included in the commission we have been charged with when Jesus said; *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

Don't let yourself be included with the ones unknown by our Lord at that great judgement coming upon the world on that last day where Jesus will say; *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"* (Matthew 7:21-23) Rather, find yourself seated with those on Jesus' right hand in that judgement when He will say to you: *"Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world."* (Matthew 25:34)