

Bill's Bestowals:
"A Father's Plans"

*"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!*

And that is what we are!"

(I John 3:1)

"He is not here, He has risen!" (Luke 24:6) HAPPY EASTER, all!!

On the day of this writing, my son, Caleb, has just hit the "double digits" of age. It is so hard to believe he is now ten years old when I still have such vivid memories of his birth! I remember that with just one glance at that messy, noisy little "blob" of tissue that entered the world on March 16, 2008, something set in my heart; a connection of some sort was made that I simply cannot explain. I saw and knew I would do anything for him, up to – and including – death!

My mind was already active concerning God's plan for Caleb from that moment. After all, he was born ...

1. ... on March 16 – and remember the significance of "3:16"? John 3:16 is the whole Gospel in a nutshell – *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."* First John 3:16 also says, *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."* (Check out 3:16 in Acts, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, II Thessalonians, and I Timothy also, by the way! I've always loved "3:16!")
2. ... on Palm Sunday of that year, and remember that Palm Sunday is the day the crowds cheered for Jesus as He made His "triumphal entry" into Jerusalem.
3. ... at 12:13 p.m. – and (yes, I know this numbers thing is kind of silly, but I find it fun and fascinating) John 12:13 "just happens" to be the actual Palm Sunday text: *"They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!'"*

I believe God has big plans for Caleb. Even if none of these points I have made concerning his birth were true, THAT fact would still be true! God has big plans for Caleb. Equally true is this: "God has big plans for _____" (fill in the blank with your name.) Did you know that? Ephesians 2:10 says, *"For YOU are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which He prepared in advance for you to do."*

God has big plans for you. Just as my mind remembers my child's birth with such precision, with enormous emotion, and great joy, and incredible hope, I ask that you remember that you are God's child (see I John 3:1, above), and recognize that He has all these same feelings wrapped around YOU! God "saw and knew He would do anything for you, up to – and including – death!" With that, I say again: "Happy Easter!"

"May the Lord bless and keep you ..." always! Pastor Bill