

Today we'll hear the children sing. Have you ever wondered how children hear us sing? "Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly" "On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me." "Later on, we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire." "He's making a list, chicken and rice." "Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say." "Sleep in heavenly peas." "In the meadow we can build a snowman, then pretend that he is sparse and brown." "You'll go down in Listerine." "Oh, what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap and hay." "Good tidings we bring, to you and your kid."

Yes, it's cute to think of how our children mishear what we sing...and say. And I'm sure we all had some of those mishears and therefore misunderstandings when we were young. But more likely than not, some of the things your parents said you didn't mishear or misunderstand. You chose not to listen. And then you got into trouble.

What do God's children mishear and misunderstand when their heavenly Father is speaking? Perhaps with us too, it's more a matter of choosing not to listen. Adam heard God clearly say, "On the day you eat of it, you will surely die." That ancient Liar, the Devil, the Adversary of God and man asked Eve, "Did God really say?" She should have listened. She deliberately chose death when she saw the fruit was good for food and desirable for gaining this so-called wisdom, this mystery power the devil offered. And so did Adam, who was with her.

And so we all sin. We all mishear God's Word. We deliberately twist it and bend it to suit our own sinful aims. Did God really say, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind?" Oh, that's for those religious nuts. That's for later, when I'm worried about dying. For now - if only I had more money, a better car, a new gadget, then I'd really be happy. Did God really say, "Love your neighbor as yourself?" That's for weaklings. I've got to look out for number One - me, myself, and I. How else will I ever get ahead?

So we sin, so we die, so we face God's eternal wrath in hell.

But wait, our heavenly Father speaks again. "The offspring of the woman will crush the serpent's head." "In you, Abraham, all nations of the earth will be blessed." "The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between His feet, until he comes to whom it belongs." "A virgin will conceive and bear a son, and you shall call Him Immanuel." "He will be wounded for your transgressions and crushed for your iniquities." "I know that my Redeemer lives." "His kingdom will never end."

God spoke and those who heard - and believed, longed for the Son of God to come into the world. Through faith in God's promises they have eternal life, even now."

And He came, the Son of God, Christ, the Lord, the Savior born to you!

So, let's listen - today, to the Word of God through our children. Don't mishear. Don't misunderstand. Your heavenly Father speaks to you through your children - no, His children. And as you believe, so enjoy the promises. He forgives your sins. He gives you His Holy Spirit to give you faith, hope, and love. He brings you abiding peace. He opens heaven's door the moment you breathe your last.

Now, child of God, won't that change your life? Yes, we'll seek His kingdom first. We'll remember the one thing needful for ourselves and our families is Christ and His holy Word. We'll worship Him at every opportunity - in joy. We'll live in His love and by the guidelines of His Word to honor Him and let all know that we have heard, we believe, and we love Jesus. Listen. Amen.