

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Wed. Eve. Bible Study - 12/9/15

Great Words Of The Bible

ADOPTION

Study Text: Romans 8:1-17

Life Through the Spirit

¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ⁹You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life^l because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

¹²Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "*Abba, Father.*" ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷**Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.**

In Exodus 2:10 "When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water.", Esther 2:7 "Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died." and in Luke 15:11-24, we have illustrations of adoption, and these will help us to answer the question: What does Adoption mean?

It means *the placing of a son*. When we are born again we become children in God's family (John 1:12-13), and God becomes our loving Heavenly Father (John 6:32). But, we not only become children of God; we become sons of God and legally recognized heirs - look up **Romans 8:14-17** "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." Thus, by adoption, God gives us a new status, and this new status, or position, at once brings us into the place of new *Privilege* and of new *Responsibility*.

I. THE PRIVILEGES OF THE ADOPTED

According to Ephesians 1:4-5, we, as believers, were adopted in the purpose of God "before the creation of the world." What are the privileges and blessings which are ours as the result of our adoption?

1. **We have received His SPIRIT.** Look up **Romans 8:15** and **Galatians 4:6** "Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." Every son of God *has already* received the Holy Spirit of adoption whereby he comes to God and calls Him "Father".
2. **We have been given His NAME.** When a child is adopted by earthly parents, and is legally registered as their son, he usually takes the name of the parents. God has brought us into His family and has given us the status of sons and the privilege of bearing His name - look up **Ephesians 3:14-15** "For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name."
3. **We are being conformed to His IMAGE.** Look up **Romans 8:29** "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." notice that when we become sons of God, the Holy Spirit, who enters our heart, begins to conform us, or change us, into the likeness of the Lord Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18). God's plan is that we should be like Him, and when we see Him we shall be like Him (1 John 3:2).
4. **We must expect His CHASTENING.** Make no mistake about it - this is a blessing, a privilege to be enjoyed by those who are the sons of God! Study **Hebrews 12:6-11** carefully. When God's chastening hand is upon us, we should rejoice, because -
□ **Philippians 1:6** "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
5. **We may experience His COMFORT.** Look up **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" and **Isaiah 66:13** "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."; Notice the wonderful picture our Lord gives us in **Matthew 23:37** ""Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing."

This changes the metaphor, but it emphasizes the same truth, namely, that the Lord protects and comforts us just as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings.

6. **We should enjoy His LIBERTY.** In Romans 8:19-23, Paul speaks of the liberty from sin, and all that has resulted from sin, which will one day be experienced by the whole creation, and he likens this to the liberty which every son of God may enjoy. Servants do not have the liberty which sons have - and we are sons! - compare John 15:13-15.
7. **We are going to share His GLORY.** Look up Romans 8:17. We shall sit with Him on His throne and enjoy Him through all eternity!

These, then, are some of the Privileges of the Adopted. But every privilege carries with it a responsibility, as Peter says - **2 Peter 3:11** "Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives"

2. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADOPTED

Let us place the Privileges and the Responsibilities side by side:-

1. **We have received His Spirit: let us be careful not to grieve Him.** Look up Ephesians 4:30, and read verses 17 to 32 and notice some of the things which grieve Him. There is no greater incentive to holy living than the constant reminder that the Holy Spirit dwells within.
2. **We have been given His Name: let us see that we bring no dishonour upon Him.** Look up Acts 9:15 and 2 Timothy 2:19, and in contrast, notice Acts 5:41. Nothing hinders the work of God more than when Christians bring dishonor upon His name.
3. **We are being conformed to His image: let us be submissive to the hands of the Potter.** Look up Jeremiah 18:1-6 and Isaiah 64:8. Sometimes His dealings with us may be painful, and often they will be perplexing □ but always they are for our good (Romans 8:28).
4. **We must expect His chastening: let us be exercised by it.** Look up Hebrews 12:11, and 1 Corinthians 11:27-32. In every time of testing we should ask, "What new lesson is the Lord seeking to teach me?"
5. **We may experience His comfort: let us do so, and let us share it with others.** Look up 2 Corinthians 1:4. The margin reads "encourages" - compare Hebrews 10:25 (margin). How wonderful it is that we can experience His comfort! □ but let us be careful that we do not become selfish and self-centered in our enjoyment of his blessings.
6. **We should enjoy His liberty: let us be victorious over every form of carnal or legal bondage.** Look up John 8:36, and compare Romans 8:2. Lazarus was raised from the dead, but he had "his hands and feet wrapped around with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face" (John 11:44) - work, walk and witness!
7. **We are going to share His glory: let us be humbled by this rapturous prospect.** Look up Revelation 1:17 "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last." Look at 1 John 3:1-2 "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.