

Reflection Questions

Doctrine (What does this passage teach us):

How do all 3 persons of the Godhead work in unison concerning our salvation?

Reproof (What wrong thinking does this passage expose):

How does the Law bind us into slavery?

Correction (How does this passage fix wrong thinking):

How can we have assurance of salvation?

Instruction in Righteousness (How does this passage help us to continue):

How does our adoption help us in our prayer life?

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 61:1-8

Song #156 ~ Rock of Ages

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:1-24

Song #146 ~ O the Deep, Deep Love

Scripture Reading: Genesis 4:1-26

Prayer

Sermon ~ Galatians 4:6-7

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #303 ~ Behold the Lamb

Galatians 3:14

In order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Pastor Dan Benitez ~ 813-751-4305

www.CalvaryBaptistTampa.com

Text: Galatians 4:6-7

Theme: Justification and sanctification are by faith apart from the works of the Law (Gal. 3:3).

Introduction: “In regeneration God gives us new spiritual life within. In justification God gives us right legal standing before Him. But in adoption God makes us members of his family. Therefore, the biblical teaching on adoption focuses much more on the personal relationships that salvation gives us with God and with his people.” (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, pg. 736).

I) You are no longer a slave under the Law, but a son receiving the inheritance (6-7).

A. Because we are sons, the Spirit of Christ dwells within us (6).

1. Before we were sons of God, we were sons of wrath.

Explanation: Paul makes a clear distinction in Ephesians 2. We *were* sons of disobedience (Eph. 2:2) and children of wrath (2:3) before we are made alive in Christ (2:5).

Application: When we pause and consider that we were children of wrath before God adopted us as sons, we can't help but rejoice in His mercy towards us.

2. The Holy Spirit confirms our adoption (6).

Explanation: The Holy Spirit gives assurance of salvation. In a parallel passage, the Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of God (Rom. 8:15-16).

Application: Satan would love to cause us to doubt our adoption as sons. When we struggle with assurance of salvation, we lack the confidence that we need in order to walk by faith. When you are tempted to doubt your assurance of salvation, remember that the Holy Spirit dwells within you and testifies with your spirit that you are, in fact, a child of God.

3. The Holy Spirit encourages our spirit to cry out to our Father (6).

Explanation: In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ called out these same words—Abba! Father!—that we cry out (Mark 14:36). This is both the Aramaic and Greek word for father. Many have pointed out that the Hebrew word—Abba—is often used by children who are calling out to the father.

Application: There is no need for shame or fear when calling out to your Heavenly Father. Let us draw near with boldness to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16).

B. Since we are sons by adoption, then we are heirs (7).

1. We are no longer slaves, but sons (7).

Explanation: Those who are under the Law are in slavery. Later in this chapter, Paul identifies Hagar, Sarah's handmaid, as a representation of Mount Sinai where the Law was given (24-25). Those, like the Galatians, who desire to go back to the Law for their sanctification are in bondage (3).

Application: Our adoption drastically changed our relationship to the Law. We are no longer bound as slaves, but free. The Law is no longer a burden we carry in order to try to have a right standing before God. Instead, we delight to do the Father's will.

2. We are heirs through God (7).

Explanation: All three persons of the Godhead are at work in our salvation. The atonement is the work of Christ on our behalf. We are drawn by the Holy Spirit. And our adoption is a gracious act of the Father on our behalf.

Conclusion: Our adoption is a demonstration of the Father's love towards us. He has chosen to call us His children even though we were at one time far from Him.