

Ephesians 3; Lord's Day 9

FATHER OF JESUS AND FATHER OF ME

- I. The name "Father" conveys a wonderful, most intimate and close relationship.
 - A. The Fatherhood of God has its beginning within God's own being as the Triune God.
 - 1. God's Fatherhood is found first in the relationship of the First Person to the Second.
 - 2. Secondly, the Triune God is Father of the Mediator.
 - B. To reveal His Fatherhood outside of Himself God created the heavens and the earth.
 - 1. He, by speaking (Ps. 33:9), created all things out of nothing, not needing previously existing material.
 - 2. He created in six 24 hour days.
 - C. Of whom is God Father?
 - 1. He was the Father of all, from the viewpoint of creation because He made man in His own image and likeness.
 - 2. Only some have obtained the right to be His adopted children, an act of infinite mercy, for His Son = s sake.
- II. The reality is that God is my Father.
 - A. This is true only through and because of His Fatherhood of the Mediator, Jesus Christ.
 - B. How does God become the spiritual Father of His adopted children?
 - 1. First, He predestinated us unto the adoption (Eph. 1:5).
 - 2. Then, in the fulness of time God sent His Son, that we might receive the adoption of sons Gal. 4:4,5).
 - 3. Then God = s Son gave His Spirit to testify with our spirits that we are God = s children (Rom. 8:15,16).
 - 4. Our adoption is to be fully realized when we are glorified in heaven (Romans 8:23).
- III. There are implications which arise from this relationship.
 - A. This restricts God's Fatherhood.
 - B. Our Father provides us with all things necessary for our body and soul (Matt. 6:32; Phil. 4:19).
 - 1. Our heavenly Father watches out for us, turning all evils to our profit and making us more than conquerors.
 - 2. Thus the Sovereign God is our Father - able and willing to give us all good and to change all evil to good.
 - C. I can rely on my Father in every circumstances of life.
 - D. Before this heavenly Father let us "bend the knee" (Eph. 3:14).
 - E. May earthly fathers learn more and more to reflect their heavenly Father.