

**Galatians 4: 6 and 7; “No Longer a Slave, but a Son”, Message # 25 in the series –
“Christ Has Made Us Free”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on
November 28th, 2021, In the Afternoon Worship Service.**

There are spiritual truths which sometimes we do not see too clearly when we first become a Christian. There are truths which will affect our whole attitude in our going about to live our Christian life. And so we should know them. This truth that we will studying now is one of them; the truth that we are God’s sons and daughters through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. What does God do for us when we believe in the Lord Jesus? Well, He forgives all of our sins and He imputes to us the righteousness of Christ to our legal standing. This is the doctrine of justification. But He does something else. Verse 5 says that when we believe in Jesus we receive the adoption as sons.

This is a truth which is more personal yet. By faith in the gospel we are brought into real spiritual union with Jesus Christ. And God deals with us very personally in our hearts, as His sons and daughters, for Christ’s sake. So at this time, we want to think about this truth together. What are the two great benefits which come to us as Christians because of the fact that we are spiritually adopted by God and are now His sons and daughters? These verses tell us 1st – That God sends forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts. And then 2nd – That because of this sending of the Spirit, we become heirs of God through Christ. These are the wonderful truths that we want to think together about for the next few minutes.

1st of all – We want to look at the fact that, because we are sons, God sends forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts. (verse 6)

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father.’” The Apostle Paul has already said to us in verses 4 and 5 that the reason that God sent forth His Son into this fallen world of sinners, was to redeem those who were under the law that they might receive the adoption of sons. This phrase, “those who were under the law”, I have told you, seems to have a primary reference to the Jews. But looking at it more carefully, it also has a secondary reference to the Gentiles who have sinned without law. Even though they are not under the law, in the sense of their being Jews, they are also under the condemnation of the law, whether they know it or not. And as such, they also need to be redeemed.

Turn with me over to Romans chapter 2, verses 12-16, and I will show this to you. “For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”

Now, notice here, that “the work of the law” is written in the heart of the Gentile unbeliever, even though they are not under the law, and do not have the law, nor know, nor perfectly keep all of its commandments. The Jewish unbeliever has sinned “in the law”, having the knowledge of the law and all of God’s commandments. But the law of fallen human nature; the image of God in man, especially including his conscience, witnesses to him that God has great expectations of obedience for every man. In this sense the Gentiles, who do not have the written revelation of God, including the definition of all of His commandments, are a law to themselves. Their own thoughts accuse or defend them.

But I want you to see that, by this law of fallen human nature, the Gentiles cannot be justified. For, “If they have sinned without the law, they will also perish without law.” (verse 12)

So, we must conclude, that every person, whether Gentile or Jew is under the condemnation of the law except Jesus Christ who alone has fulfilled the law. Look at Romans 3: 19-24. “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.” “Therefore, by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” “But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.”

“For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” So, every person who believes in Jesus has been purchased by His precious blood and set free from the condemnation of the law.

This redemption of Christ’s is received by faith when we believe the gospel. Our receiving of Christ in the gospel makes us God’s sons and daughters, not only in a legal sense of our standing, but also in the personal practical and experiential sense of God’s sending forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts. It is because Christ has redeemed us that we are adopted. And it is because we are adopted that God sends His Spirit into our hearts, crying out ‘Abba, Father’. This is glorious truth indeed! The reason that this is so very glorious is that every Christian really has a personal experience of God and Christ, because of the Holy Spirit is sent into their heart.

This is not to say that the Spirit has not been at work, before conversion, in the New Birth; He has. But that work is often very mysterious. And the Christian is not sure of this good work of regeneration and the New Birth until he or she personally believes in Jesus Christ. But they are, by faith, sure of their need of Christ, and of their being saved from their sins by Him. But when a person believes in Jesus Christ, they are then given the gift of the Holy Spirit. Turn with me over to Ephesians 1, verses 13 and 14. “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

Notice here, that it was after believing in Christ that the Holy Spirit was given. But He was given as a seal, showing that it was God’s express purpose to redeem that particular person, to begin a good work in their heart, and also to complete it until the Day of Christ, based upon the fact that they were, and they are, a purchased possession of God’s. The “sending of the Spirit into our hearts” is the same thing as being given the gift of the Holy Spirit and being sealed with Him. This is verified by Acts 2: 38 and 39. “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Now, here, Peter is not talking about each person who believes in Christ receiving the gift of tongues or any other ecstatic or revelatory gift. For, “Do all speak with tongues?”, he says in 1st Corinthians 12: 30. No, he is referring to the gift of the Holy Spirit who is the seal and the guarantee to us who believe, that we are now accepted by the Father; that we are adopted by Him as His child, because of the redemptive work our beloved Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. Now turn over to Romans 8: 1-4 and you will see what the Holy Spirit commonly does in the life of each believer when they trust in the Lord Jesus. “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the

Spirit.” “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” “For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

You can see here what God does on the basis of Christ’s finished work. He “makes us free from the law of sin and death”; not only no condemnation, but also “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” is given to us in our being given the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are therefore able to be led by the Spirit and walk according to the Spirit. And because of Christ’s work we are covered day by day by His atonement; and we are able to learn and grow in Christ without any sense of bondage or fear if we are correctly understanding these things.

What a great salvation we have! Just as Christ was sent forth by the Father into this fallen world of sinners to the great and gracious work of redemption, even so, it is the application of this great work of redemption when the Holy Spirit is sent into the hearts of unworthy and undeserving sinners. God sends Him forth into your heart, so that you might cry out ‘Abba Father’.”

Now 2nd – We want to see that because we are sons, we have become heirs of God through Christ.

Verse 7 says: “Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” “No longer a slave,” it says. Let me ask you if you know the reality of this, that you are an heir of God Himself and all that He will give you in Christ? This begins now, in this life, after you have believed in Christ. And it will continue all the way through this life, in on into eternity. You are an heir of God in that you are heir of all of the good work of the Holy Spirit, who is God Himself, and the Spirit of Christ. In Christ you inherit all the blessings of salvation from beginning to end, and this includes the love of the Father, the intercession of Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit; God’s leading you all through this life, all the way to glory.

Look with me now at Romans 8: 14-17. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.” “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’” “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him that we may also be glorified together.” If you are led by the Spirit of God, you are a son of God. How do you know that you have the Spirit of God? When you believed in Jesus, you received the Holy Spirit and not a spirit of bondage again to fear. You are no longer a slave to sin, but a son. You are no longer in bondage to the law, or under its curse any longer. You are a son and free to serve God.

This is very significant. The spirit of bondage and fear is related to a person’s being convicted of their sins by hearing the law of God. It is true that this conviction of sin is also a work of the Spirit. John 16: 8 – “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me, of righteousness, because I go to My father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” And Stephen’s message to the men who getting ready to stone him, in Acts 7: 51 – “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!” “You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your father did, so do you.”

These men deserved to have the spirit of fear and bondage in relation to their being accepted by God, because they did not see themselves as sinners needing a Savior; they did not like having anyone tell them so. But a true believer has not received a spirit of bondage leading to fear again. The true believer has received the Spirit of adoption whereby they cry out, “Abba, Father’.” They may have known the spirit of bondage leading to fear of death and hell before their conversion, but now that they have trusted in Christ, they should no longer feel that; because

they know the reality of the Holy Spirit bearing witness with their spirit that they are the children of God. So let's think about your assurance of salvation for a moment. The assurance that you have been reconciled to God, whereby you have been accepted by Him, and the assurance of your having this Fatherly relationship with Him, spiritually speaking, comes by the Spirit's Presence in your heart and mind, working there to convince you of it.

It is the same spirit which dutiful children feel toward a kind and loving father. You don't fear your kind and loving father with a craven fear. You run to him and sit on his lap, and tell him all that concerns you.

Having this kind of access to the Father gives you a confidence toward Him that He will hear you any time that you need Him to. Through having been given the Spirit, and all the promises of God in His word, you now know that all you have to do is to cry out Abba. He is there for you. The Lord Jesus is God's Essential one and only-begotten Son. But since the Father sees you in Him, He sees you as He sees Jesus. He loves you at all times. That is what justification is all about. But God also, for Jesus' sake, has adopted you into His spiritual family, the family of God, His ears are open to your cry. He wants you to run to Him with every problem or difficulty that you might have. He wants you to see Him as your Papa-God.

He wants you to know that you have access to Him, through Christ, and this is why you now have the Spirit into your heart. 2nd Corinthians 1: 18-22 – “For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us – by me, Silvanus, and Timothy – was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.” “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” “Now He who establishes us with you, in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” So, beloved, know that because of Jesus you are sons and daughters of God; that you can draw near with confidence, and He will hear your voice. You are an heir of God through Christ. But take care that you pursue this relationship with God through Christ, by not grieving the Holy Spirit who has sealed you to the day of redemption. Do not love the world or worldly people, and put off the Old Man with his sinful desires.

Listen to what Paul says in 2nd Corinthians 6: 14-18 – “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.” “For what fellowship has light with darkness?” “and what accord has Christ with Belial?” “Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever?” “And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?” “For you are the temple of the living God.” “As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them.’” “I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” “Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord.’” “Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, say the Lord Almighty.”

What great promises there are here, relative to God's being a Father to us. Since these promises are so great, and our adoption is confirmed to ourselves by our walking in the truth and walking in righteousness before Him, Paul says this in the following verse, in verse 1 of chapter 7 – “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” Ah, what a gracious God we serve! When or if we fall to some thoughts which are sinfully wrong, when we find that the world is getting too great a hold of us, and we are not living for God as we should, let us remember to cleanse ourselves from these things, and then the promise will be fulfilled in us.

Come out and be separate, do not touch what is clean, and He will receive you. Let us make holy resolutions to walk in righteousness, holiness, and the fear of God all the day long. And then remember that we are no longer slaves of sin, but sons. It will be in cleansing ourselves from these worldly things, and these sensual things that we will be perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Let us ask ourselves now, if we understand these things? Blessed will you be when you realize that you are doing what God commands and you are proving yourself to be His son.

