



Are You Adopted?

Saturday, 12/26 at 4:00 ✦ Sunday, 12/27 at 9:00

First Sunday after Christmas – 2020

Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 9:00; New Year's Eve at 6:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: I hope you received an enjoyable Christmas gift; however, *even more important than THINGS are RELATIONSHIPS*. We all have a variety of relationships – within our families, among our friends, at our place of work, and so on. Those relationships can be nice, *but most important is our relationship with God!*

When God made Adam and Eve, they were in relationship with Him; however, *their sin ended their relationship with God*. Therefore, God put in place *an elaborate plan of love and sacrifice*, so that He could adopt us and countless others into His family.

Today's sermon is based on **Galatians 4:4-7**. Since that section includes Paul's perspective on Jesus' birth, *let's consider some things about Paul before we get to today's sermon text*.

1. **Paul's Earlier Life:**

- a. Dates: There is some debate on the exact dates, but Jesus was probably born in 5 BC – since Herod the Great, *who sent the soldiers into Bethlehem*, seems to have died in 4 BC. Paul was born around AD 3; therefore, Paul was a little younger than Jesus. Jesus died in AD 30, yet Paul was not converted until approximately AD 35. Jesus and Paul lived at the same time, yet – *as far as we know* – Paul didn't personally know Jesus while He was on earth.
- b. Profession: Paul was a Pharisee [*“an organized society of Jews who claimed authority in interpreting the Scripture and setting rules for the observance of the law in daily life” (Friberg, BW)*]; Paul also described himself as “a son of Pharisees” (Acts 23:6 NAU). Therefore, Paul knew the Scriptures well; however, he didn't know that JESUS IS THE CHRIST, *the Promised Messiah!* Therefore, he strongly opposed the followers of Jesus. The Bible says: “Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way [*which was an early name for Christianity*], both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem (Acts 9:1-2 NAU).”
- a. Conversion: Even though Jesus had already ascended into heaven, He came to where Paul was on the road to Damascus and said to him, “...*why are you persecuting me?*” (Acts 9:4 NAU). Take note: Even though Paul was persecuting followers of Jesus, rather than Jesus Himself, Jesus said to Paul, why are you persecuting **ME**? Those who follow Jesus are

connected to Jesus. When someone goes against them, *they are going against Jesus!* Then, a few days later, Paul received the gift of God-given faith and was baptized for the forgiveness of his sins.

2. **Paul's Perspective on Jesus' Birth:** ⁴ **But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman [Mary], born under the Law [like everyone else],** ⁵ **so that He [Jesus] might redeem those who were under the Law [paying with His living, suffering, and dying], that we might receive the adoption as sons.**
- a. The fullness of the time: Like a glass being filled with water, it slowly kept filling more and more during the OT era – *until it was finally full.*
 - b. Born of a woman: In [Genesis 3:15](#), God said the Savior would be the offspring of a woman, and we know that woman was Mary.
 - c. Born under the law: As we are under the law – *responsible to keep it and rightly punished when we don't*, so Jesus was born under the law. Since we have all failed to keep the law perfectly, *Jesus came to keep it perfectly in our place.*
 - d. Redeem those under the law: We inherited brokenness; then we did our own breaking of the law, *both of which separated us from God.* Therefore, Jesus came to redeem us, *to buy us back with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.*
 - e. Receive adoption as sons: We were separated from God; then Jesus redeemed us, paid our ransom price; then God brought us into His family through adoption. Jesus is the firstborn and only begotten Son of God; *we are the **adopted** children of God!*

3. **God's Work Inside of Every Believer:** ⁶ Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba [Papa]! Father!" ⁷ Therefore you [a believer in Jesus] are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. // All sons of God are heirs of God's awesome eternal blessings; they also have **the Spirit of God**.

a. The indwelling Holy Spirit: ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 3:16** "Do you [pl.] not know that you [pl.] are a temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?" // What a HUGE blessing for you and me!

b. The work of the Holy Spirit:

- i. Assurance: ^{NAS} **Romans 8:16** "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God..." // How? He does His work through the Bible!
- ii. Instruction: ^{NAU} **John 14:26** "...the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things." // So let us study, learn, and benefit going forward!
- iii. Power: ^{NAS} **Acts 1:8** "...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses..." // We are weak, but, *by the power of the Spirit*, God can accomplish much through us!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, TYSM for taking away our sins, adopting us into Your family, and giving us the HS! Help us to be aware of His presence, be sure we are Your children, grow up in Your Word, and live unto Your glory!

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