

SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 1:3-14 we are shown 2 aspects of our spiritual blessings.

- I. Our spiritual blessings have specific qualities.
 - A. They are given by God, who should be blessed (v. 3a).
 - B. They are given to those in union with Christ (v. 3b).
 - C. They are complete (v. 3c).
 - D. They are in the spiritual realm (v. 3d).
- II. Our spiritual blessings have Trinitarian provision.
 - A. God elected believers.
 1. He chose us in Christ (v. 4a, b).
 2. He chose us before time began (v. 4c).
 3. He chose us to be holy and blameless in His sight (v. 4d).
 - B. God predestined believers with grace (v.5a, 6b).**
 - 1. For adoption (v. 5b).**
 - 2. Through Christ (v. 5c).**
 - 3. According to His will (v. 5d).**
 - 4. With the goal of provoking praise of His glorious grace (v. 6a).**
 - C. God redeems in Christ (v. 7a).
 1. By means of Christ's blood (v. 7b).
 2. Resulting in forgiveness of sins (v. 7c).
 3. In proportion to God's grace (v. 7d, 8).
 4. Resulting in the revelation of His mysterious will to unite all things in Christ (vs. 9a, 10b, c).
 - a. in His way (v. 9b, c).
 - b. in His time (v. 10a).

- D. God provides an inheritance in Christ (v. 11a).
 - 1. Upon the grounds of His predestinating work (v. 11b).
 - 2. According to His sovereign power (v. 11c).
 - 3. Resulting in the praise of His glory (v. 12).

- E. God seals with His Holy Spirit (v. 13c).
 - 1. Who? Those in union with Christ (v. 13a).
 - 2. When? Upon hearing and believing the Gospel (v. 13b).
 - 3. For what? As a guarantee of our inheritance (v. 14a).
 - 4. Until when? Our redemption is complete (v. 14b)?
 - 5. With what result? The praise of God's glory (v. 14c).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 19, 2017

Passage: Various on Adoption

Memory Passage: Galatians 4:4-6

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 1:4-6.** The word for adoption occurs 5 times in the NT and not at all in the OT, but the idea is found throughout Scripture. One thing to remember this week is both men & women are adopted as God's children. The word for adoption means "adopted as sons," and as you study this week you will see the importance of letting the idea of sonship stand. It is not sexist, nor does it ignore or marginalize women.

(b) Let's start today in Paul's letter to Ephesians itself. How does one become "adopted as sons" according to Ephesians 1:5?

(c) **Read Eph. 2:1-10.** Describe the life of "sons of disobedience/children of wrath."

(d) What happened to believers to change their sonship (see also 1 John 3:1), and how are these actions connected with 1:5?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Sam. 7:14, Ex. 4:22, Ps. 2:6-7, Jer. 31:9, Hos. 11:1, & Matt. 2:13-15.** How can Israel be God's "firstborn son?"

(b) Why does God call Israel's king His son, and why does this matter?

(c) How does Matthew's quote of Hosea 11:1 inform your understanding of the relationship between Jesus & Israel?

(d) Jesus is called God's Son in many places (c.f. Matt. 2:17; 17:5; John 3:16, et. al.). How is Jesus' status as Son different from Israel's status as son?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read John 1:12-13, 8:39-47, & 1 John 3:1-10.** What does John tell us about (1) who the father of all non-believers is, (2) how these "children" are recognized, (3) how one becomes adopted as God's child, and (4) how this adoption affects the daily life of a believer?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 8:12-25 & 9:4.** According to Romans 8, what benefits do believers gain as adopted sons of God?

(b) Explain how believers have the benefits of adoption currently and yet still need to "wait eagerly for adoption as sons."

(c) Explain how you can be sure that you are a child of God (8:16).

(d) Explain what it means to be "fellow heirs with Christ," and how believers as sons are different from Christ as Son.

(e) Explain why Paul can say of his fellow Israelites, "to them belong the adoption" in Rom. 9:4 even though the word "adoption" never occurs in the OT (see Day 2 for help).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Gal. 3:21-4:7.** How does one relate to the law differently after one's adoption into God's family (paint a "before & after" picture)?

(b) Explain how those who are adopted sons of God inherit the blessings promised to Abraham.

(c) Explain why keeping the term "adoption as sons" is important, rather than changing every occurrence to "children" or "sons & daughters," and why this term does not discriminate against women.

(d) Write down every blessing you received as a result of your adoption in Christ according to Gal. 3:21-4:7.

(e) Write down at least 5 ways these blessings enable you to live to God's glory every day.

DATE: March 19, 2017

PASSAGE: Various on Adoption

Adoption as Sons