

1. Adoption is the Highest Blessing in Salvation
  - a. Election is the Primary and Foundation Blessing
    - i. Justification (Forgiveness) is the necessary blessing, but not the highest blessing
  - b. Adoption deals with a deep and intimate relationship with God
    - i. Justification is merely forensic, or dealing with the law
      1. Blessing of Freedom from sin's penalty, i.e. God's wrath
      2. Blessing of renewed life, and powerful Spirit transformation of the heart
    - ii. Forgiveness is a blessing, a restoration of relationship, but does not define what type of relationship
      1. From slaves to sons, the story of God's wondrous design of the Gospel
      2. The deep and intimate relationship of sons
  - c. 1 John 3:1; John 1:12
  
2. An Inheritance of Hope
  - a. Our *complete* healing, the summing up of all things in Christ, is not based upon what we have done or will do, it is based upon the promised inheritance as sons and daughters of God.
    1. Two Aspects of Inheritance:
      - a. The word, (*κληροω*), means "to make a heritage" or "to appoint an allotment," and is in the passive voice, meaning that we (believers) were made God's heritage by His appointment.
      - b. The second aspect is that as His heritage, we have been made His heirs and thus been given a great and glorious grace of being called His children.
      - c. So, we were made His heritage by His will, AND we have an inheritance in Jesus.
  - b. This inheritance is already obtained
    - i. Aorist term, past tense, "heritaged" or "made a heritage, or heir"
    - ii. We have it already, although not in its fullness
      1. We have it because it is predestined due to our adoption
      2. Jesus is so faithful that His promise is absolute and undeniable
  - c. We are to inherit an allotted portion of God's estate.
    - i. This inheritance is a sharing in the glory of Jesus Christ!!
      1. Romans 8:17
      2. 1 John 3:2
    - ii. The complete reconciliation of the circles of alienation that sin has caused in us is the inheritance promised
      1. Romans 8:23
      2. Creation, or Nature, eagerly awaits the wonder of that day.
  - d. This inheritance tells us that we are a family, with God as our Father
    - i. Our inheritance does not have as its end some mere treasure of comfort or bodily healing or seeing loved ones. It is not "streets of gold" and "mansions in heaven" (a poor translation of John 14:2; better, "rooms"). The end of our journey to which God is working all things is Jesus. He is the Door, the Way, and the End. Our inheritance *is* the presence of God.
    - ii. This inheritance involves seeing the Lord
      1. John 17:24
      2. Matthew 5:8
      3. 1 Corinthians 13:12, "knowledge and prophesy" are Godward things to be known fully in the future
      4. 1 Thess 4:17
    - iii. The prospect of seeing the Lord face-to-face should light a flame of joy within the adopted son's heart.
      1. "I see myself now at the end of my journey, my toilsome days are ended, the thought of what I am going to, and of the conduct that waits for me on the other side, doth lie as a glowing coal at my heart...I have formerly lived by hearsay,

and faith, but now I go where I shall live by sight, and shall be with him, in whose company I delight myself.”

~ Mr. Stand-fast (*Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan)

2. If the prospect of seeing the Lord face-to-face does not delight you as a believer, and therefore as an adopted son; maybe you are neither
3. Psalm 37:4, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you your desire”

### 3. What Difference Does an Inheritance Make?

- a. There is freedom from the wealth and comforts of this world
  - i. This home is not my home; Heaven is my home.
  - ii. My earthly father may reject me, but God never will in Christ
    1. Other relationships will fail me, but Jesus never does
    2. My trust in others will fail, but Jesus never lets me go
    3. It is His work that holds me close to His bosom, not my perfect faithfulness.
  - iii. Though I lose in this world, I know that my Lord awaits me with an inheritance that will never fade, rust, or be taken
  - iv. I can freely give of what I have on earth, knowing that my rest is secure in His presence.
- b. There is security that I will not be lost
  - i. He is not a Father that will toss us out of the family if we fail.
  - ii. Our inheritance is not something earned, it is something given by the Father
    1. “appointed” or “obtained”
    2. This word is actually in the passive, indicating that God has made us His heritage, His allotment, His reward, and therefore made us His heirs
  - iii. There is a room being prepared for you in the Father’s house by Jesus Himself. Since He is preparing it, you will be brought home
- c. There is reason to obey
  - i. Not because you can lose your inheritance or add to your inheritance, but because you are God’s sons!!
  - ii. Love for the Father is the foundation of God-honoring obedience, not fear of the punishment
    1. Do you ask yourself every day: Do I treat God as my Father, loving, honoring, and obeying Him, seeking and welcoming His fellowship, and trying in everything to please Him? Have I forgotten how good He is or how sovereign He is?
    2. Am I proud of my Father and the family of grace to which I belong?
- d. There is praise due to God as our Father!!
  - i. Passive word, He enacted the blessing of adoption, making us His heritage with an inheritance of Himself
  - ii. This inheritance, the familial bond of blessing, is ALL the work of the Father
    1. His counsel (NOT deliberation, but rather *resolution*, decision, from *βουλή*) is the foundation of His will. God chooses, then makes a plan, then works to effect His plan, then predestines its success in making us who trust in Christ His heritage.
    2. His will sets forth His purpose
    3. He works all things to meet His purpose
    4. He predestined us has His heritage, in His family, due to His purpose
    5. Predestined according to His purpose, He is working to “heritage” us as His heirs
      - a. His counsel, nobody else’s idea or desire, all His, is the foundation of God’s purpose
      - b. His purpose, or setting forth of His goal, of inheritance comes from His resolute will and He works all things to accomplish His purpose and meet His goal

6. He is the “one working all things” “to the praise of His glory”
  - a. Passive word, He made us His heritage
  - b. All the blessings of salvation are His responsibility, and He endeavored to make them His when He placed you and I in the kingdom of His beloved Son
  - c. “In Him...” we are the blessed sons of God of whom God is working all things after His the counsel of His own will
    - i. Great Hope!!!! God is the one working!!!
    - ii. ILLUSTRATION: Children; I have hope that God is working in her (I can’t effect the necessary good)
  - d. This is the point of the eulogy! The glory of God the Father in Christ the Son in our complete redemption is the point! PRAISE HIM!
- iii. He loves us! Glorify His love by sharing the mystery of the gospel
- iv. Tell of His character, brag on your Daddy and His glorious work in you and for you!
  1. He has chosen you, made you an heir, allotted you a portion with all the saints, because He is good to you!
  2. All of your blessings find their source in the counsel of His gracious will!! To Him be the glory forever and ever!

J.I. Packer asks these questions:

1. Do I, as a Christian, understand myself?
2. Do I know my own real identity? My own real destiny? *I am a child of God. God is my Father; heaven is my home; every day is one day nearer. My Savior is my brother; every Christian is my brother, too.* Say it over and over again first thing in the morning and last thing at night...any time when your mind is free, and ask that you may be enabled to live as one who knows it is all utterly and completely true.

Too often we live like orphans, as if our Father has left us and we must get along under our own strength in this world. My brothers and sisters, God has redeemed you and adopted you in Christ. In your failures of faith and obedience He will not drive you away like orphans. You are sons, so be humble before Him and praise Him! Let us not act like we are good because of our own wisdom or our own ability to live rightly. Let us not behave like we somehow have earned our position as God’s heritage. And that’s what you are by God’s working in Christ: the heritage of God! We know that our inheritance is given of grace, our forgiveness is given of grace, and our Father loves us tremendously because He gave His Son to die in our place. You are deeply loved and looking into the severity and the strength of His love every day is what will change us to be more of whom our Father wants us to be.

Do you see Jesus today? For, He is the Door by which we enter into peace, into the family of God, into peace with God. He is also the Way on which we walk in this new Kingdom, this new family; the Way on which we walk this journey in peace with God and in peace with each other. And, finally, He is the End of our walk, the end of our journey, the goal to which we are all being moved by the grace of God. He is our peace. He is our pursuit. He is our desire. He is our reward. He is our heritage. He has reconciled us *to Himself* (Eph 1:5), is purifying us *for Himself* (Titus 2:14), so that we would be holy and blameless in His presence of whom all Deity dwells in bodily form (Col 2:10). Jesus is the Door (John 10:7-9), the Way (John 14:6; Heb 10:20; Ps 37:5), and the End of your journey toward peace. He, Himself, made you peace, holds your peace, and is your peace. He is the end to which you are saved.

Are you and I looking forward together to being in His presence? To finally seeing our Savior face to face? THAT is what we have been promised! THAT is what we are being called toward! THAT is the deepest longing of the heart walking in the Spirit because THAT is the heart of the Holy Spirit. Oh the greatness of our God! What grace towards us! What mercy! What love that we should be called children of God! And so you are in Christ!! He, your Redeemer, has resolved, planned, and worked to make you so! We have been given a taste now of being in God’s presence, but oh the day that this taste becomes the feast of God’s glory in the presence of those whom He has redeemed!! Oh to see the dawn of that glorious day when my new eyes gaze upon the glorious face of my Christ, my Redeemer, my gracious Savior-King! Let the Eulogy continue...

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

1. Describe what your eternal life would be like if you were regenerated, justified, and forgiven, but NOT adopted into God's family? Do you struggle with really seizing the truth that you have been given (already) an inheritance as God's heritage?
2. Has your relationship with your human family become better or more difficult since you became a Christian? If more difficult, how can Mark 10:29-30 help? Does the promise of having an inheritance with God bring you hope when you lose in this life, or does it feel too distant? How does fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Great Savior-King help us see this life in its proper context?
3. Do you see your fellow Christians as fellow-heirs of Christ, as brothers and sisters? How does this truth effect the way that we relate to one another, particularly in conflict? How does the truth that God has "heritage" us all by grace alone, through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone bring unity to our *relationships* even as we struggle together?
4. What is the overarching point of this entire passage (vv. 3-14)? (HINT: it's the command in v3!) How does this point help us understand our proper response to the gift of being heritage by the King? How does this truth effect the way that we view money and power in this world? Can you relate this truth to your own life of work, family, hobbies, and community?
5. Jesus said that part of our inheritance is persecution, or suffering (Mark 10:30; cf. Rom 8:17). How has this been true in your life as a Christian? When you suffer for or with Christ, do you see this as evidence of your sonship? Why or why not? How can this truth give you hope amidst suffering? Pray to this end: to know in our hearts the glorious goodness of God in Christ.