

Churches of Galatia: Chapter 3 & 4 (Slide 1)

The Unchangeable Promise Led to Our Adoption

Reading: 2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13

From chapter 3 and 4 we have substantive proof of at least two immutable points of God's eternal plan:

(Slide 2)

- 1. The promise made to Abraham concerning the singular seed, that is Christ, was also outlined in the Garden as God pronounced judgement on Satan:*

Genesis 3:14-15 (Slide 3)

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent:

***"Because you have done this,
You are cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.***

***(Slide 4) 15 And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel."***

The promise of which all nations would be blessed through Abraham (Genesis 12:3) was predicted in the very beginning since by God's providence, Jesus would come through Abraham. (Matthew 1:1)

If you have ever wondered how one man's faith could make a difference for many people, just look at Abraham. A man's sustained faith has a tremendous impact on many people. Even our faith.

(Slide 5)

2. *The promise made to Abraham was heard by the Son when it was made! He fulfilled the promise!! We are blessed through the promise!! The clear proof of this truth is found in:*

Hebrews 10:5-7 (Slide 6)

5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

***"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
But a body You have prepared for Me.***

Not only did Jesus know that He would be the sacrifice for all sin, He knew He had to have an earthly body in order to die to be that sacrifice.

**6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin
You had no pleasure.**

(Slide 7) **7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—
In the volume of the book it is written of Me—
To do Your will, O God.'** "

Jesus fulfilled the promise by becoming the curse/ the sacrifice for us so that we might experience the adoption as sons and daughters!

When **Apostle Paul** speaks to the **Galatians** concerning the promise and the inheritance he is also speaking directly to us.

The Law's purpose was because of transgressions and was to act as a tutor only and until being replaced by the *Law of faith* that came through *Christ*.

Now we *walk by faith* and we are justified only by that obedient faith in His death, burial and resurrection which allows us to be considered for that inheritance that is; eternal blessings through Christ.

It cannot be overstated as to how important **Abraham's** faith in God means to us!!

Galatians 3:26-29 (Slide 8)

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for (Slide 9) you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Our hope began and hinged on the promise to Abraham of which he lived up too through his faith. We are now added as a son or daughter through baptism of which clothes us in Christ preparing us for an eternal inheritance.

Galatians 4:1-7 (Slide 10)

1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. (Slide 11) 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

(Slide 12) 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

We as gentiles have never been under the law, nevertheless, we receive the same benefits as those who were once under the law and were adopted into Christ by faith. The fullness of time came because the Son has come!!

How does it feel to be adopted?!!

From a human standpoint, for most of us we don't really understand what it means. Most of us were naturally born into our family. Yet, those who have been adopted likely have a different perspective.

My cousin, Judy, was adopted. We all knew that growing up but thought little differently than we did from those who were cousins by birth. For her

it was likely life-saving. It is hard to tell where she may have ended up or what may have happened to her.

There are others in this congregation who know full well the life saving value of being adopted into a good home.

My cousin was adopted into a christian home. Her adoptive parents, my aunt and uncle had always been in the church. They raised her in the church and apart from some natural teenage rebellion she became a christian as well.

She married a brother in the church who also became a minister. Again, I believe this is because she was adopted into a christian home.

I had been in contact with her prior to the *Covid Pandemic* and we were planning to have a family reunion. Though there weren't many of us left, we had established a date and made reservations for it to be held in the park.

Then the pandemic hit and we were forced to postpone our gathering.

When it seemed safe to plan again, we began working together to once again have that long awaited family reunion. An approximate date and time were set and the location was to be the same. We were all looking forward to getting together.

Shortly after these arrangements were complete, early one morning I received a message from her sister, my cousin Pam. She informed me that Judy had been killed in an automobile accident the night before. I was stunned!!

My first thought after hearing of her death was just how important, indeed, it was for her to be adopted into a Christian home!!

1 John 3:1a (Slide 13)

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

John is saying what we all should be feeling, just *"how marvelous it is to be adopted by God through Christ!!"*

Adoption, as we are all learning in this congregation, isn't an overnight process. It is fraught with legal hoops that adoptive parents must jump over. I am convinced it takes great patience and fortitude to complete the process since likely one will encounter uncertainty, experience anxious moments and sleepless nights.

Adoptive parents that persevere through these trials are the kind of parents that a child truly needs. One brother in Christ from Spring Lake, NC church of Christ states this from his experience; *"It takes 9 months to have a child through natural birth but to adopt can take years! It is a loving, intentional act of Grace to adopt!"*

I can only imagine from a human standpoint the elation one must feel after being adopted into a loving home. Even at a young age, children will feel warmth, peace, and a great sense of *"home."*

I would venture to say that loving adoptive parents make the child feel wanted, perhaps for the first time in their lives. *"Someone actually wants me!! I have value!! I am their child and they want me!!"*

An adopting family may have birth children, yet, the adopted child shares in the rights and privileges just the same.

I heard this story from the same brother just mentioned;

There was a picture of the teacher's family on her desk and one of the children in the picture had different colored hair. One child wonders why and another says, *"maybe he was adopted."*

One little girl responds; *"I was adopted."* The children ask her; *"What does it mean to be adopted?"*

"It means I didn't grow in my mommy's tummy. I grew in her heart."

The perfect sentiment for us as children of God; *"We grew in God's heart!"*

We have some notable people in the Bible who were adopted:

Moses was adopted by **Pharaoh's daughter** but cared for by his birth mother because of the *providence of God*. **Moses** was adopted because **Pharaoh's daughter** took *pity* on him. She realized that he could not survive on his own.

Esther was adopted by **Mordecai (Esther 2:7)** her first cousin because her father and mother died. A natural adoption since she was family.

Perhaps one the most inspiring adoptions was that of **Jonathan's** son **Mephibosheth (translated as mouth or dispeller of shame)** by **King David**. **Jonathan** was a close friend of **King David**. One might say that their relationship was as close as brothers.

Mephibosheth was five years old when his grandfather, **King Saul** and his father, **Saul's** son **Jonathan** were killed in battle. The boy's nurse, fearing that the **Philistines** would seek to kill the young boy fled, but in her haste she dropped him and he became a cripple.

After **King David** had conquered all his enemies, he sought out **Mephibosheth** and because of his loyalty and love for **Jonathan, King David** adopted him and made him to be like his own son, even though at this time he was an adult with a son. Through *Grace*, **King David** adopted **Mephibosheth**.

This is our story as *Christians*. By the *Grace of God* through *Jesus Christ* we are adopted as sons and daughters. He meets us where we are no matter the time of our life or our circumstance. We are now part of God's family. We should rejoice daily!!!

Ephesians 1:3-5 (Slide 14)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (Slide 15) 5 having predestined us to

adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

John 1:10-13 (Slide 16)

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become (Slide 17) children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Romans 8:15-17 (Slide 18)

15 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." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (Slide 19) 17 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.

Invitation

No adoption becomes a reality without cost, without sacrifice and often, not without pain. Our adoption as sons and daughters of God hinges on our relationship with Him through Christ Jesus. The price has been paid. All we need to do is accept his offer of adoption through baptism and become a child of God. Won't you seriously consider that today?

If you are a child of God, and you need prayers of encouragement for whatever reason, our God is ready to hear those petitions.....

Please let us know how we may assist you in your walk with God today.....

Reading:

2 Samuel 4:4

4 Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

2 Samuel 9:1-13

1 Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

2 And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

He said, "At your service!"

3 Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?"

And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet."

4 So the king said to him, "Where is he?"

And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar."

5 Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

6 Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?"

And he answered, "Here is your servant!"

7 So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually."

8 Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

9 And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house. 10 You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do."

"As for Mephibosheth," said the king, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons." 12 Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. 13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.

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