**183 - Adopted (and Sanctified)**

**Teaching Notes**

**Introduction**

Recapping over what we have covered so far in this series, we have been studying God's wonderful plan of salvation.

We remember how being made in the image of God, but acting in disobedience, our first parents Adam and Eve fell in to sin and thus brought the whole of humanity into sin, and a spiritual separation from God.

We covered so far in this series that God in His great love and mercy set about to save a people, and through the effectual call, beckons His elect come, that they might return unto him in repentance and faith.

Last week we considered the marvellous truth of Justification. We learnt that to be “Justified” is to say that it was **“just-as-if-I'd”** never sinned.

This declaration is stamped upon God's chosen people, by the merits of Christ and the payment that He made for His people on the cross of Calvary.

The sinner saved by grace can now know peace with God and the forgiveness of sins based upon Jesus work on the cross and they now having a saving faith given to them by God to know that it personally happened for them, for the sins that they have committed.

Not only has Christ taken their sins, but He has given them His righteousness, His perfect record of obedience to the law of God, which now endows the believer in Christ with the privilege and blessing to reside with God in paradise for eternity.

In this lesson, we will cover another glorious truth in the plan of God, that being the blessing of adoption.

**2**

**Earthly adoption**

Introducing this talk on adoption, I'd like to share this analogy to help us have a more in-depth view.

I want us to take our minds to imagine a reality that was very common during Biblical times.

So we have a family stricken by poverty, one in which they were continually looked down upon by other members of society. They had no wealth or possessions, and such even gave some of their children up to be slaves to upper class families.

Now imagine the complete opposite end of the scale. A family that had wealth and stature amongst men and who were held in high esteem by all.

Everything that they could have ever needed or desired was within their grasp; having a loving father who was master over many things, this family was well looked after.

Adoption was actually quite common even in those olden times and what we would see is that in the kindness and care of this wealthy man, he would choose to bring the poor slave child into his family by means of adoption.

The child, although not entitled as a result of blood relation, can now partake in all of the goodness and blessings as the other children in the free family.

The slave child is now free and able to call out “Father” just like all the other children.

**Heavenly adoption**

We've taken a look at Earthly adoption, now I'd like us to consider heavenly adoption.

This glorious truth is one which provides great comfort and reassurance to those who have come to a saving faith in Christ.

**3**

Not only does God blot out the sinner's transgressions, but He also changes their nature... He changes their identity! Once they were slaves to sin, but now God has freed them from this bondage and He classes them as His children.

This heavenly adoption helps us to see the loving nature of God, that He chooses to bring them into a loving relationship with Him.

We'll now take a closer look at how God bestows His love towards His children throughout their walk with Him.

**The father's role:**

* **Decision Maker –**

It was the norm during those times for the father to carry the responsibility of making the crucial decisions for the family.

The father would have to plan ahead to ensure that his family would be well looked after.

This would include deciding how and what to spend the family's money on, how to save wisely as well as choosing a safe location for the family to live in.

Following off of this illustration, it is enlightening to contemplate the fact that this is only a glimpse of how God looks after His children.

The all knowing, all seeing, loving Creator of the universe is in control of all things, and guides His children through all events of their lives.

As a good Father who knows the needs of His children, is faithful to answer our prayers if we are truly His and our requests be according to His will.

**4**

* **Tower of Strength –**

Another aspect to consider is the fact that a father was the “tower of strength” for the family.

In olden times, without the aid of heavy machinery that is quite common amongst us today, it fell upon the men in the family to carry out the tasking physical jobs, such as chopping wood, building structures for homes and even fighting off enemies that would try to harm the family.

The father would bare this role foremost and would have to ensure that all of His family were well looked after.

Again, this is another glimpse into the character of God. When adopted, we come to know that ***God is our refuge and strength (Psalm 46:1).***

No matter what a believer may go through in life, they have great comfort in joy in knowing that the Lord fights for them and that He will never leave them nor forsake them.

The One who spoke all things into existence, the One who is light, all powerful and mighty, it is He who strengthen His children and defends them.

* **Provides for every need –**

It was up to the father to ensure that the needs of the family were met. Children need feeding, clothing had to be provided and so the father would need to go to great lengths to fulfil these needs.

Even in times of great famine, it was up to the father to ensure that the needs of his family were met.

He would have to go to great lengths to ensure that they were fed. Especially in the skill of growing crops, he would need to do so diligently.

**5**

If for one particular reason or another, crops were scarce, the father would have to find a way to bring in food to sustain his family.

When we are converted and adopted into the family of God, we too know the provision of the Lord. The One who owns all things, the One who has no lack and has no need of anything, is the same One who provides for His children.

*The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof (1 Corinthians 10:26)* if we are children of God we can rest in the reality that no matter what we face in this life, our heavenly Father is always at hand to help us in times of need.

* **Hands down His skills –** In those times having certain skills were crucial to the well-being of the family. Knowing how to look after livestock, sowing and reaping crops; all of these skills ensured that a family would be able to get by.

Young children growing up would depend on their father to pass down these skills, and he would spend ample time coaching them, ensuring that they would be skilled enough themselves to be able to carry out certain tasks for themselves.

Part of God's caring nature is displayed in His providing the Bible for us to be guided, instructed and edified by.

* **Trains and improves us –** The father would also carry out his responsibility of disciplining this children. The world has a rebellious view towards this notion but the reality is that without discipline and correction children would get themselves into serious amounts of trouble and danger.

**6**

The love of the father would cause him to take the necessary steps to guide his children in this way, and again, being only a small glimpse into the ways of God, we come to understand that the Lord corrects the child that He loves.

* **Provides for our future –**

The father would ensure to set aside enough money to provide for his family. He would store up enough for his children and even his children's children to ensure that they would have a secure and stable future.

What a joy it is to know that God has provided an eternal future of safety for His children.

**Adopted sons and daughters of the living God**

* **At great cost –** We've discussed some wonderful truths about the character of God, and through the examples given consider the loving and caring nature of God. It is this same loving and caring nature that compelled Him to set out to save rebel sinners.

The price that had to be paid was more than any created being could bear and so the Father sent the Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

* **In order to bring honour to the Father –** In light of all we have discussed, let us consider the responsibility that should be held in high esteem, amongst God's children.

If we have come to know repentance, and a saving faith in the Lord, we carry His name as adopted sons and daughters and therefore must think on these things seriously.

**7**

If we have come to know God as our loving Father in heaven, let us be encouraged that He is working in us to will and do of His good pleasure

He is faithful and just to complete the good work he has started

**So let us continue looking onto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.**