

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 46

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit

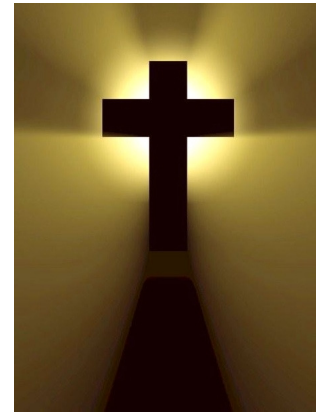
Spiritual Adoption
Creation Suffers, too!

Part 5

Sunday, May 15, 2011

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



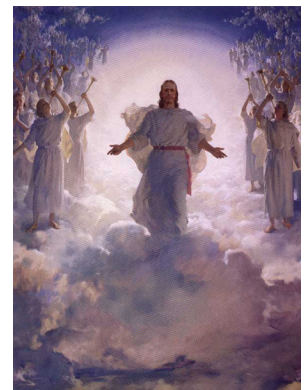
Lesson



Our Father's plan for each of us in time is that we grow up and advance to spiritual maturity, receive those blessings held in heaven for us, and glorify God in time and on into eternity. Our study of the subject of adoption helps us to look forward to these great blessings and makes us realize our receiving those blessings is the responsibility of God. Because of His integrity or His perfect character we can depend on receiving them. We obey Him in time, live in His grace and plan and He blesses us in everything that happens to us in time.

Adoption means responsibility, purpose, authority, and a planned life. It means being given the rights, power and authority belonging to someone who is truly great and has all the power. In our [Roman 8](#) passage, Paul is emphasizing that glorification is the end goal of adoption. Glorification is received at the Rapture of the Church when all believers are called home to meet the Lord Jesus in the air and receive their resurrection bodies and enter into Heaven. This glorification means complete and total deliverance from the sin nature, sin, and evil in everyway.

The final result is that we will become just like the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, perfect and in glorified bodies like His. He is already glorified, and we shall be glorified because of our union with Him. Remember our union with Him is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.



Glorification means that man is not only delivered from all the effects of the Adam's fall, but man also is given a far higher position and blessing than mankind would have had if he had remained without sin. This is the grace of God.

The emphasis in [Romans 8](#) is on justification and glorification, not so much sanctification. This is in keeping with the big picture...our eternal security and the much more, the grace of God.

You remember that justification is when you are imputed or credited with Jesus' perfect righteousness (+R) at the moment you believed in Him as your Savior. This makes you perfect in God's eyes and it is your "ticket" into Heaven!! Remember you have to be perfect to get into Heaven and this makes it happen for you. Sanctification is what we are not looking at here but it is best if you review what it means. It means being set apart in Christ for a specific job to do here on earth after your salvation. In other words it's your spiritual gift...your service to the Lord. You are His saints and ambassadors on earth.

Now let's look at what Paul is teaching us in God's Word. [Rom 8:19](#) "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God." The original job of nature in the Garden of Eden was perfect order...nothing out of place...everything working perfectly. However, nature fell when Adam

and Eve fell into sin. When man fell, all that he ruled over also fell; this is suffering because of association. So even nature wants to return to what it was before the fall and it is craning its neck to see what is coming...the revealing of the sons of God.

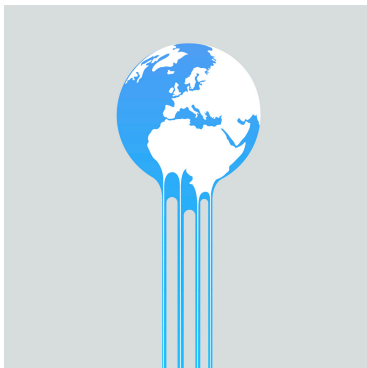
When the Lord Jesus Christ returns at the Second Advent to end of the Tribulation and start the Millennium, nature is going to function properly once again as it did in the Garden. The hills and meadows and valleys will shout and sing together for joy. (Isa 55:12-13 "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. (13) Instead of the thorn bush, the pine tree will grow, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD'S reputation, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed." Nature is going to give us perfect environment during the Millennium.

Here's the mind-blowing meaning of both mankind's fall in the perfect Garden and the believer's restoration to glory at the Rapture. God will unveil our true nature as Christians at the Rapture (at Judgment or Evaluation Seat of Christ), and He will publicly show our real rank at the Second Advent of Christ (when we will rule with Him in the Millennium). Rom 8:20-21 "For the creation was subjected to uselessness (after the fall of Adam), not willingly (it wasn't earth's fault), but because of Him who subjected it (God punished earth as well as mankind), in hope (21) that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption (from the result of sin from Adam's fall) into the freedom of the glory of the children of God." Non human creation is not what it should be. It has been frustrated and not able to accomplish the end for which it was created. Mankind's fall has ruined the goodness of God's creation. This is slavery to corruption and it is a result of our fallen universe:

- Things break down.
- Things die.
- The car rusts.
- The grass withers.
- Rose bushes have thorns.
- The pet gets old and dies.
- Insects sting
- Certain carnivorous animals attack
- Grime and dirt builds up
- Food rots and becomes garbage



So we can't just come to the conclusion that any scientific "law" we see now, after the fall of man, was the way it was before the fall of man, because nature was totally different (and better...excellent) before the fall of man. And now we see that it will be restored to an even better state in the future. Imagine better than the best we have here now!



Now God created the earth long before He placed humans here. And so in the long history of our planet there have been at least three "earth-shattering" events that completely changed the nature of this planet. Let's look at them:

1. The first occurred when Satan and the fallen angels rebelled. God froze the planet Earth and then after an unknown period of time He thawed it out and restored it (Gen 1:2) to make it the paradise or Garden of Eden He had in mind for a new creation called man.
2. The second occurred when man fell. That changed EVERYTHING!
3. The third was Noah's flood. Again the earth dramatically changed for the worse!

You know we forget that the fall of man brought about terrible, even disastrous change and corruption on planet Earth, and in fact all of creation. Now one of these is the second law of thermodynamics which is a really big word that means things rot and decay. This means that matter, stuff, or materials go from more order to more disorder. In other words they break down or get old and rot and smell. Our sin nature goes from bad to worse, too. Animals are now ferocious. We pollute our

planet. Stars even die, the astrologists tell us. Nature is in a desperate state. BUT THERE IS HOPE!!!!!! The Millennium is coming!!!

Do you realize what [Romans 8:19-21](#) is saying? Let's read it again! "For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. (20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God."

If you are a believer in Christ, a member of His body, nature itself is pinning all its hopes – on you!!!! Me you say!!!! Yes, you!!!! The restoration of nature itself depends on the fact that you, me and all other believers have been adopted by God and have been placed as His adult sons and daughters so that when you are revealed to be the adult son in the glory of your resurrection body, all of creation will be changed with you! This is awesome, kids!! This will occur at the Second Advent of Christ, when we return with Him as He ends the terrible Tribulation and establishes His thousand year reign on planet earth...the Millennium! [Rom 8:22](#) "For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now." Nature suffers intensely until the Second Advent, not because of anything that creation has done, but because of what man has done...because of sin! [Gen 3:17](#) "Cursed is the ground because of you (Adam and all mankind)..."

Nature, like the sons of God, is going to be born again, but it has not happened yet. In fact, our Lord calls it exactly the same thing ...regeneration or renewal in [Matt 19:28-29](#). "And Jesus said to them, 'I tell you the truth, at the regeneration (renewal) of all things, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones (these are the 12 Apostles), judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (29) And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive a hundred times as much, and will inherit eternal life.'" [Rom 8:23](#) "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body (when we receive our resurrection bodies...perfect bodies)."



Nature had absolutely no say in the situation in the Garden when Adam fell and all of nature fell too because of Adam, and we have absolutely no say when we suffer for righteousness' sake. If Christ suffered we will also suffer but His grace will see us through it and eventually we will get our new resurrection bodies that will never suffer again. So there are two redemptions in the Scriptures:

1. The redemption of our soul, when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The redemption of our body, which will occur at the Rapture.

The groaning in [Rom 8:23](#) is not the groaning of pain, but rather the groaning of eagerness! We want our new bodies and we want them now.

[2 Cor 5:1-5](#) "For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house (our body) is torn down, we have a building (resurrection body) from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2) For indeed in this house (body) we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling (resurrection body) from heaven, (3) inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. (4) For indeed while we are in this tent (mortal body), we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed (with our resurrection body), so that what is mortal (will die) will be swallowed up by (eternal) life. (5) Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God (the Father), who gave to us the (Holy) Spirit as a pledge (a guarantee because He lives in us)."



So in this section of [Romans 8](#), we see that both creation and Christians suffer at the present time from our fallen nature and our frustration at our incompleteness, and we also both eagerly long to be changed into that incorruptible glory (in our resurrection bodies). Our groaning is an expression of the frustration we have at our imperfections and sicknesses that mark our life from justification (receiving (+R) to glorification (receiving our resurrection bodies). [Phil 3:20-21](#) "But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; (21) who by the power that makes Him to

bring everything under His control, will change our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body."



As believers in Christ, we have the first fruits of the Spirit. That means we have the Holy Spirit indwelling inside us. God the Father has provided a down payment as proof of the certainty of our adoption and future inheritance, and that down payment or guarantee is the indwelling Holy Spirit. Eph 1:13-14 "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation...having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, until the redemption of those who are God's own possession, to the praise of His glory." The future glory of the creation is tied in with the final stage of our adoption as adult sons and daughters. Rom 8:23 "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."



Here we have this basic situation of the believer in time, this tension between the "already" and the "not yet" in 1 John 3:2-3. "See how great a love the Father has given to us that we would be called children of God; and so we are. The reason the world does not know us, is that it did not know Him (Jesus...they rejected Him). (2) Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be (in our resurrection bodies). We know that when He appears (at the Rapture), we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. (3) And everyone who has this hope (confidence) in Him purifies himself, just as He (Jesus) is pure." In our resurrection bodies we will be perfect just like Jesus. We are already truly adopted into God's family, with all the benefits and privileges that come with it, and yet we haven't received our inheritance BUT we will at the Rapture and Judgment Seat of Christ.

We have miles to go before we get our inheritance and while we wait we will go through times of suffering as well as times of blessing. We are already promised to Jesus, but not yet the bride and wife of Him. We are already possessors of eternal life, but since we must still pass through physical death we are not yet completely living in that eternal life. We have already been declared perfectly righteous (+R), nor are we beyond temptation or sinning yet. We've already been placed in union with the resurrected Christ (Baptism of the Holy Spirit), yet we haven't yet passed the season of suffering that prepares us to be completely glorified with Christ. So always remember that the Bible, this New Testament in particular, speaks to us in both ways, as the already and as the not yet. So it is so VERY IMPORTANT that you recognize which is which!

Meanwhile we have the first fruits, the down payment, the assurance, the desire to go forward, and this is in the Person of God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who is the first fruits of the glory that we wait for, is the one who brings together the whole design of adoption. The first fruits refers to a ministry of God the Holy Spirit that ties together the beginning and the end. He is the unbreakable connection between the start of the process and the completion of our adoption.



God's redemptive work has begun. Because we have the first fruits in the Person of the Holy Spirit indwelling us, we also have the complete confidence, the assurance that God's work of redemption (giving us our resurrection bodies) will be brought to its full and complete end. Rom 8:23 "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."

The Holy Spirit is both the first installment of salvation and the pledge that guarantees the remaining stages of salvation. The Spirit joins the two sides of the "already-not yet" tension that we are caught in waiting to be in our resurrection bodies and receiving our inheritance and living here on earth. The Holy Spirit's ministry gives us the patience that we need to handle the tension of waiting.

We've already been transferred from death to eternal life through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Yet the very fact that the Holy Spirit is the first fruits means that we have not yet ended all ties to sin and death. This means that we have to have a healthy balance in our spiritual life. Remember, don't think so much about today that you forget about the future and don't think too much about the future that you don't enjoy and use your time for the Lord wisely today. We are to be happy about the blessings we already have. We must place that joy or happiness right along with the reality and frustration of our failures when we sin and our intense desire for the day when we will not fail or sin anymore. This is because in that day we will be like Him...JESUS...our wonderful and Glorious Savior and Lord.



We already have our adoption, and yet it is still the object of our hope for the future! At the moment of faith in Christ, at our justification (imputed or credit with (+R)), we are adopted into God's family. But our adoption is not complete until we are finally made like the Son of God himself. This final act of God in His grand design of adoption is the redemption of our bodies.

Our redemption shares this "already-not yet" tension because on the one hand it is already accomplished in the past as we see in [Eph 1:7](#). "In him we have redemption through his blood (spiritual death on the cross), the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace..." And yet on the other it is something we are looking forward to in the future in [Eph 1:13-14](#). 'In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation...having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.'

We have so much to be thankful for, kids. I hope you tell God the Father every night and day how much you appreciate all He has done for us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on December 5, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

