

Title: Do Not Turn From Adoption To Slavery

Text: Galatians 4:1-11

Main Idea: If you are adopted by God, then you are free from slavery.

Division Statements:

1. The law prepares you for adoption (vv. 1-3).

ἐπίτροπος (epitropos), “guardian” - a general term referring to someone to whom the whole care of the underage boy is entrusted. Remember that Paul had just taught them at the end of chapter three that the law of God was a prison guard that confined all men everywhere in the prison of sin, and that the law was also a tutor, designed to bring you to the end of yourself by revealing your overwhelming sin so that you would turn to Christ in faith. The law then is the guardian and manager preparing a child of God for adoption.

2. The Son is the means of your adoption (vv. 4-5).

Here we have the great doctrines of providence, the incarnation, the sinless perfection of Christ, substitution, redemption and adoption all expressed in these two verses. All should be touched on in the exposition to some degree or another.

3. The Holy Spirit is the Guarantor of your adoption (vv. 6-7).

Notice that the whole Trinity is involved in this great work of redemption and adoption. κρᾶζον, “crying out” in verse 6 is a present active participle. Explore the implications of this particular word choice and its form. Truly the Spirit does a mighty work on our behalf, ensuring our salvation.

4. Perseverance is the confirmation of your adoption (vv. 8-11).

The “weak and beggarly elements” are the things taught by the Judaizers as a means to salvation: circumcision and the examples of verse 10. Paul stunningly calls this a “turning again” meaning that these things are the same as the paganism out of which the Gentiles had been saved. Both are doctrines of demons and inconsistent with true salvation. Thus his fear in verse 11. The necessary implication of verse 11 is that perseverance in the truth confirms adoption and failure to persevere proves that one never truly knew God.

Fortunately the Galatians heeded Paul’s warning and this text actually became the means of their perseverance.

Bridging From Text To Sermon

Textual Idea: The Apostle explains how our adoption into God’s family is accomplished and its consequent freedom.

Sermon Proposition: If you are adopted by God, then you are free from slavery.

Interrogative: What does God teach us about our adoption?

Transition: The text explains four crucial aspects of our adoption by God.

Copyright © 2009 Chris Rice

Permissions:

You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material for use as sermon or lesson notes. For such use, you may feel free to alter the wording as necessary to meet your teaching needs. You are also permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in other formats provided that you do not alter the wording in any way, do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction and give appropriate attribution to the author. For web posting, a link to this document on www.fearingthelord.com is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be approved in writing by the author prior to use.

For all formats other than handouts to be used in the personal delivery of sermons or lessons, please include the following statement on any distributed copy: By Chris Rice. © 2009 Chris Rice. Website: fearingthelord.com