

A GLORIOUS MISSION OF REDEMPTION & ADOPTION

I. Galatians 4:4-7 Ephesians 1:3-8 Romans 8:14-16 1 Peter 2:9-10

A. Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV) is a wonderful Christmas passage: 4 *But when the fullness of time had come, (OV "At just the right time.") God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (In the midst of eternity past and eternity future, God the Father sent His Son on a glorious mission. It was a mission of redemption but also a mission of adoption. Know this: Jesus' glorious mission absolutely includes all of you! But let's take a look back...)*

B. The very first *Christ-mass* happened in a stable. Attendees of this mass were Mary & Joseph and a few shepherds--as far as we know. There could've been animals but we're pretty sure they didn't sing. (*The ox and lamb therefore did not keep time because there wasn't a little drummer boy playing pa rum pum pum pum on his drum. Nor did the night wind say anything to the little lamb nor the little lamb say anything to the shepherd boy. "Good King What's-his-name stayed home, there was no fest of Stephen..."*) Sorry to mess up all those catchy Christmas tunes on your favorite playlists! It seems all the singing took place outside Bethlehem in those dark fields where shepherds were the only audience.

C. Back to the barn: While there wasn't actually a worship service, it was arguably a holy gathering. With no midwife and just a noble but nervous husband, a young expectant mom gives birth for the first time. And this is no ordinary Baby, Mary gives birth to the *Son of God, the Savior of the world!* Think about it: The bassinet for the King of kings would be a feeding trough! This venue's certainly no NICU! There's no anti-bac wipes! Swaddling clothes, yes; *Huggies*, no! God the Son left His occupied throne from on high and lived in the womb of a teenage Jewish girl 9 months until her water broke, she went into labor, and gave birth! The real story's better than all the fable-ized nonsense that clutters this season!

D. So let's read our first text again, this time from the Amplified: Galatians 4:4-7 (AMP) says: 4 *But when in God's plan the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the regulations of the Law, 5 so that He might redeem and liberate those who were under the Law, **that we who believe might be adopted as sons (and daughters)** [as God's children with all rights as fully grown members of a family. 6 And because you really are His sons, **(and daughters)** God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba! Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave (bond-servant), but a son **(or daughter)**; and if a son, **(or daughter)** then also an heir through the gracious act of God through Christ. (Jesus' mission is astounding: You were not merely saved from sin, death, & hell; nor awarded a ticket to heaven to walk on golden streets and join a harp band; but through Christ's precious shed blood, you were adopted into the Family of God! Somebody say, *Hallelujah!*)*

E. Some of you in this room were adopted by your parents. Or you were raised in a home where perhaps your mother or father were step-parents. Hopefully that turned out good for you. Hopefully they made you feel like you belonged...

F. I had an Uncle that was adopted because my Grandparents were told they couldn't have children. So they adopted a little boy. They were happy as clams. Then sometime later my Grandma discovered she was pregnant. They had a little girl. They named her Eleanor. She was my Mom! Later Grandma gave birth again, this time to my Uncle John! But a time came when their adopted son, my Uncle Jim, started feeling inferior, somehow less a part of the family. So my Grandma scooped him up, plopped him on her knee, and told him that with respect to his younger sister and brother, Providence chose for them, but in his case, they got to choose. You can imagine how he felt after that! He now knew he truly belonged as well!

G. An unknown author wrote: "The first time I saw you was like a dream come true. No I didn't give you the gift of life, Life gave me the gift of you!" **If nothing else comes out of this Christmas season, my prayer is you realize that God has chosen you to be His! Jesus didn't come to merely rescue you from fire but for Family--His Family!**

H. Listen to Ephesians 1:3-8 (NLT) **3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. **4** Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. **5** God decided in advance to **adopt us into His own family** by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. **6** So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son. **7** He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins. **8** He has showered His kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.**

J. Now truly we do have some peculiar siblings in the Family of God! (You may be one of them-haha!) But trust me when I tell you, it'll be better later on! Before your adoption you may have been a ragamuffin or a guttersnipe, a troll or a hooligan, a bully or a wimp, a tax collector or a Pharisee, but the Holy Spirit, is conforming us into the likeness of His Son. God is a patient Potter molding His clay vessels!

K. Romans 8:14-16 (TLB) affirms: **14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons (and daughters) of God. **15** And so we should not be like cringing, fearful slaves, but we should behave like **God's very own children, adopted into the bosom of His family**, and calling to Him, "Father, Father." **16** For His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that **we really are God's children.****

*** Close with Prayer...**

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV) never gets old. It's who you are: **9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (The Lord Bless you as you go...)**

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV)

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On Adoption - Author Unknown

"The first time I saw you was like a dream come true. No I didn't give you the gift of life, Life gave me the gift of you!"

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Adopted Into the Family of God - Greg Laurie
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGLxN0cxk6Y>

Adoption - C.J. Mahaney (Sermon Jam)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4kPh_g-Vt4

"Good Good Father" - Housefires
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djrY_eFDOwE

"Good Good Father" - The ZOE Group
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibbsFuX_eHg

[Luke 2:8-14 \(ESV\)](#)

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **14** *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"*

[John 1:1-14 \(ESV\)](#)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light. **9** The true Light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. **12** But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

[Hebrews 1:1-4 \(ESV\)](#)

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2** but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of

the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Quote by J.I. Packer

"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all."

- J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 201.

Quote by Thomas Watson (1620-1686)

"Adoption is a greater mercy than Adam had in paradise."

Quote by R.C. Sproul

"Nobody is born into this world a child of the family of God. We are born as children of wrath. The only way we enter into the family of God is by adoption, and that adoption occurs when we are united to God's only begotten Son by faith. When by faith we are united with Christ, we are then adopted into that family of whom Christ is the firstborn."

Quote by Max Lucado

"If anybody understands God's ardor for His children, it's someone who has rescued an orphan from despair, for that is what God has done for us. God has adopted you. God sought you, found you, signed the papers and took you home."

A Child of the King

By Harriet E. Buell

My Father is rich in houses and lands
He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands!
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,
His coffers are full, He has riches untold.

My Father's own Son, the Saviour of men,
Once wandered on earth as the poorest of them;
But now He is reigning forever on high,
And will give me a home in heaven by and by.

I once was an outcast, stranger on earth,
A sinner by choice, and an alien by birth;
But I've been adopted, my name's written down,
An heir to a mansion, a robe and a crown.

I'm a child of the King, a child of the King;
With Jesus my Saviour, I'm a child of the King.