

Sunday March 10th sermon: "We Are Made Sons of God -- The God of All Comforts (Pt 48)"

Preached at the Lord's Table at Grace Bible Church in Greenwood, MS,
by John Pittman Hey

Luke 12:29-32; Hebrews 2:9-16

Christ described how He has many things to say to His people, but they were not able to bear them at that time.

His disciples just couldn't accept the death of Christ and His resurrection, or Gentile disciples, or reliance upon spiritual methods rather than physical strife, or our adoption, or how we would be raised in glorified bodies, and many other matters.

Christ's answer to this was to send us the Comforter, Who will guide us into all truth, because He will not speak of Himself, but He will speak what He hears about God the Father and His Son.

By doing this work, the Comforter will glorify the Lord Jesus!
Everything true about Christ glorifies Him! There is nothing true about Him that blemishes or stains His honor and majesty! Christ's glory is the truth about Who He is, and what He did to redeem us, and what He has promised to do for us forever!

How urgently Christ places His stamp of approval upon the Comforter, and stresses to us our utter reliance upon Him.

When Mary Magdalene finally recognized Christ at the tomb on that resurrection Sunday morning, He disclosed to her a great truth: that His heavenly Father is also Father to His redeemed people!

Recall how often Christ stressed that God is His Father, that He obeys His Father, the Father loves Him, and He delights to do His Father's will at all times.

Even as a very young man, Jesus confronted Mary and Joseph with His urgency to be about His Father's business!

After His resurrection, Christ made explicit what He had previously mentioned during His ministry: that all people who trust in Jesus are the children of God. We have the same family relationship to God the Father as Jesus did in His humanity.

That's why Christ taught us to pray to God as our heavenly Father, and to ask of Him the things that we need.

Jesus even uses the example of earthly fathers, who provide good things to their children, as the lesser example of God our Father's solicitous care for us as His children.

Christ taught us that we are not to be concerned about how God our Father will provide for us, because He certainly will provide what we actually need. Christ assures us that the Father already knows what we need, and so we are trust Him, and not fear or be distressed about it.

Not only that, but our Father knows what we need before we ask of Him, and He lovingly provides those needs, even before we ask of Him!

This is what all good earthly fathers do, to provide for their children.

But then Christ tells us something astounding: fear not, little flock, for it is the Father's good pleasure to give to you the kingdom!

This is the first hint that, as God's children, we are entitled to a vast and rich inheritance!

It is no common inheritance, but rather a royal one! We are the children of no mean family, but rather, of the family of the living God of all things!

Paul expanded upon Christ's hints when he wrote, that because we are children of God, we are joint heirs with Christ in all things!

Some false teachers claim that "we are all children of God," but that is simply not so. Rather, Paul explains that we are all sons of disobedience, who follow after the prince of the power of the air, who works disobedience in us. We are all children of wrath, not children of God.

But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loves us, even when we were dead in our sins, has made us alive in Jesus Christ, and made us to sit with Him already in heavenly places! In the ages to come, God our Father will unveil to us the exceeding riches of His grace and love toward all His children in Christ!

It is only by salvation through Jesus Christ that we are made children of God!

We are joined to Christ when we trust in Him, and He saves us by His death on the cross for us.

We have been brought into something far deeper, far more glorious, than salvation from sin and death and hell! On top of that, we have been made sons of God through Christ, with all the benefits and duties and prerogatives of sons, and God as our Father performing all His loving duties and kindnesses to us.

God's love for us is no mere cold, formal love, but it is personal, familial, and extraordinary. We might ask, how did this happen?

Our sonship came about because Christ was incarnate in human flesh, so that He could die in our place, and for our crimes, which were laid upon Him by the Father.

Thus, Jesus was made like us, human beings whom God loves and determined to save unto Himself.

Hebrews tells us that this made us Christ's brethren, and we were given to Him by the Father, with the assignment to save us by His dying for us.

Christ is our elder brother, through His incarnation. He has been made our kinsman redeemer! His purpose is to lead many sons into glory! He was made a perfect savior for us, by the suffering He bore for us. In His dying, He destroyed the devil and his power over death, and delivered us from the fear of death, to which we are no longer in bondage!

It transpires that Christ's incarnation set off a cascade of consequences to our great benefit, that go far beyond our wildest conception!

Even had we been able to deduce salvation by the substitutionary death of Christ for us, we could never have known of God's purpose to adopt us as His children, which is over and above His divine and eternal purpose to save us from death and judgment and wrath.

But our God embraces His people as sons, with inheritances, and honor, and happiness, and privilege, and unrestrained joy, all of which is far more than we could expect!

This is an astounding comfort that God has bestowed upon His loved ones!