

The Footsteps of Faith Series

Lesson # 14 “Righteousness is assigned to God’s family”

Romans 8:12-25

Scripture: Romans 1:16-17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.””

Introduction:

We as a church through the life-line of hope support an orphanage. I want you to think about the children that are there. If you remember when Larry came and first introduced us to this effort. We were told about kids who had no parents or families.

Here at Cedarloo I hope one of our greatest traits is that we are family, closely connected in love and care for each other. You know we are built and designed to be apart of a family.

Speaking of family, Do you know your great grandfathers name? How about your great, great grandfather? You know every time our family gets together we end up discussing past relatives and certain events and accomplishment, I think mostly to remember our heritage, to be reminded of who we are.

Many bibles have a family tree in the front pages. Does yours have one? Have you taken the time to fill it out? I think it is really cool to look at my family tree. My mother spent quite a great deal of time researching our family and found some interesting things. Our family includes everything from royalty to poor folks to pagans. Apparently, I am a little bit Cherokee Indian, a little Irish, a little German....in other words you could think of me as the neighborhood mutt.

But what ever I am, I have a deep since of family and the belonging that comes from it. In my heart I have made all of you part of my family and I am blessed by your presence in my life.

Transitional Statement:

But, this morning church God wants to remind us that we are part of a spiritual family, filled with the Spirit of God, bound together by the blood of Christ. Living in hope of our heavenly inheritance.

Lesson:

Read: Romans 8:12-25

12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 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. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 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. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

I. The Spirit brings Christians life

Romans 8:12-13

"So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh 13 for if are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

A. "So then"connects us to verse 11 where we are reminded that God's Spirit dwells in us gives us and gives us life.

B. "We are under obligation"

1. The Greek here explains that this obligation comes as a result of a debt...i.e. it is what we owe.

a. Obligation means:

-God has expectations of us.

-We have responsibilities to meet those expectations.

b. We need to be counter-cultural

-Our world likes to be free wheeling, so to speak, that is they don't want anything expected of them and they don't want to be responsible or accountable to anybody.

-So we have to live counter to the world around us in this regard.

2. 12b *“...not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die;*
 - a. We don't let the fleshly, external, temporal things rule us.
 - b. If we do we will die...in a spiritual sense.

3. 13b *“...but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*
 - a. But, if we live by the Spirit
 - Taking seriously our obligations to God
 - Putting to death the deeds of the flesh (sin)
 - Not carrying out the desires of the flesh Gal 5:16
 - b. Then we will Live.
 - True life is not just our present consciousness with air flowing in and out of our lungs.
 - True life is one lived in the shelter of the Almighty.

II. If you are led by the Spirit of God you are a sons of God.

Romans 8:14

14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- A. What does it take for the Spirit to lead us?
 1. First the Spirit has to be in us.
 - a. And if we are baptized He is in us !
 2. Then we have to watch for His direction
 - a. Through God's word
 - b. And promptings of our hearts in relation to God's word.
 3. Then be willing to follow or keep in step with Him Gal 5:25 NIV
- B. Spirit lead folks are God's sons.
 1. Now Jesus is the only begotten Son of God.
 2. But here is the idea that we have become children in God's family.
 - a. With all His Love, protection and guidance

III. God purchased us out of slavery, to add us to His family

Romans 8:15

15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, " Abba! Father!"

A. Under the New covenant Christians didn't receive a spirit of slavery

1. Shackled and chained to something that was killing them
2. In which fear was the motivating factor.
 - a. Like the fear of Israel at Mount Sinai Ex 19 & 20

-Note Exodus 20:19

B. But, Christians receive a spirit of adoption as sons

1. Christians are adopted
 - a. Into God's family

-The family of the redeemed (purchased out of slavery).
 - b. Adoption doesn't mean second class by any stretch, but calls to mind that we were outside of God's family, separated by sin, but God sought us out and has brought us in and bestowed upon us all the rights of a natural born son.
 - c. And to this end we were predestined Eph 1:5
2. As sons we approach God's throne of grace in confidence Heb 4:16
 - a. Crying out "Abba ! Father !"
 - b. Our relationship is not one of fear but....Overwhelming Love !

IV. If we are children of God, then we are heirs

Romans 8:16-18

16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

A. As Christians the Spirit bears witness with us that we are children of God.

1. Have you really stopped to consider that your father is the King of everything.

B. Since we are children of God, then we heirs

1. “*Heirs*” points to an inheritance

- a. Carefully planned out
- b. Prepared and appointed for us.

- John 14:2 “Heaven”

2. “*Fellow heirs with Christ*”

a. If we suffer with Him

-Matt 16:24 “take up cross”

-2 Timothy 3:12 “will be persecuted”

b. So we may be glorified with Him

C. Sufferings of the present time

- 1. 57 AD, Nero is persecuting these Christians even unto death
- 2. But this suffering can’t even be compared to the glory that is to be revealed to us.

V. Eagerly awaiting the fullness of our spiritual family

Romans 8:19-23

19 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. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 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.

A. The creation here in context refers to the whole of God’s creation.

- 1. Man, woman, child, chicken, tree, rain, rocks etc.
- 2. And it is said to be eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God.
- 3. That is it is waiting for things to be set straight again.

B. That’s right the creation was knocked out of balance by sin in the garden of Eden.

- 1. It was subjected to futility
- 2. Corrupted
- 3. And it was moved into bondage

C. The creation here groans, the Greek means it experiences a common calamity

1. And is pictured like a pregnant woman ready to give birth

D. We “groan” the Greek here means to sigh inwardly as in a private prayer with God, waiting eagerly for our adoptions as sons...the redemption of our bodies.

1. In one since we have already been adopted into God’s family when we became Christians.

2. But in another since we have not received the fullness of our adoption till we have left this earth and joined our heavenly family.

VI. The hope Christians have help them to preserver

Romans 8:24-25

24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

A. Christians have true hope.

B. In fact hope was a factor for us in salvation

C. Hope that is seen is not really hope at allfleshly

D. We hope in the unseen....the spiritual realm

E. 1 Corinthians 15:19 “If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

Conclusion:

How have you done in regard to your obligations to God?

Are you looking for the Spirits leading in your life?

Is your relationship with God a healthy father/child relationship?

-Or do you feel a distance !

There is a heavenly inheritance prepared and waiting for us

-Are you groaning waiting for it?

Church are a people of hope....Amen!