

Merry Christmas



Christ's Advent & Our Adoption

Galatians 4:4-7

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One of the greatest gifts of Christmas is divine adoption. Through the sending of God's Son, God adopts us as His sons. As Christians, we ought to celebrate Christmas because it brought about our adoption.

"Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption."

*– J.I. Packer, *Knowing God**

The Plan of Adoption (v.4)

- God's plan had a right time.

- God's plan had a right person.

The Securing of Adoption (v.5)

"The redeeming work of Christ on the cross secured our adoption."

"God the Father makes slaves into sons through the death of His Son."

“Adoption is a family idea, conceived in terms of love, and viewing God as father. In adoption, God takes us into his family and fellowship – he establishes us as his children and heirs. Closeness, affection and generosity are at the heart of the relationship. To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater.”

– J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

The Benefits of Adoption (vv.6-7)

2 Benefits of Adoption

1. The Indwelling Holy Spirit (v.6)

2. Inheritance Rights (v.7)

Recommended Book: *Knowing God*, ch. 19, by J.I. Packer

Questions to Consider

1. What is your grasp of the doctrine of divine adoption? Does being a child of God prompt, control, and inform your worship of God? Does it move you to fellowship with Him in prayer? Does it inform your whole outlook on life? If it doesn't, what does?
2. Why must Jesus be both truly God and truly man in order to be our Savior?
3. J.I. Packer says, “We do not fully feel the wonder of the passage...till we see it as a transition, not simply out of condemnation into acceptance, but out of bondage and destitution into the ‘safety, certainty, and enjoyment’ of the family of God.” Take time to meditate on this glorious transition. Read Romans 6:16-23. Notice the “But...” statements in verses 17 and 22.
4. Are you more apt to generally describe your perception of God and experience of God with words like closeness, affection, and generosity or...?
5. A powerful evidence and assurance of your adoption—and frankly in your becoming more like Jesus—is revealed in you praying. How is your prayer life? Have you considered that you are robbing yourself of assurance when you are not fellowshiping with God in prayer regularly? How might this view of prayer encourage your prayer life?
6. What other “voices” are you tempted to listen to other than that of the Holy Spirit?
7. How should knowing that you have inherited God himself—a personal relationship with Him and access to Him—for eternity, thrill you?