

****READ THE TEXT****

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- We come in this text, this morning, to perhaps the **greatest privilege** that the gospel offers you. It is the very definition of a Christian -- one who has GOD as his Father!
 - It’s like GOD walks in front of the window so we can see the heart of God > here in this doctrine of ADOPTION. He shows his heart, he reveals his heart, he exposes it to us!
- The Puritans loved to dwell on, teach on & expound on the glory of adoption.
- **William Perkins lamented:** O how people often stand amazed at worldly and passing happinesses; but how rarely do you find a man who is ravished and overwhelmed with joy in this >> that he is a CHILD OF GOD!
 - >>I wanna help with this today! I wanna go after your heart & fill it with Comforting Truth.

Background to Titus 3.7

- Titus 3.3-7 is a buffet feast of **gospel glory** -- it’s more than you can handle/take in! **So rich! So full! So much! So great! So satisfying! So bountiful!**
 - Last week we looked at **justification**, and now we come to the ****result**** of justification = adoption.
 - justification happens in the courtroom; adoption brings us into the Family’s house.
 - Justification is when God accepts us as Judge; Adoption is when God embraces us as Father.
 - Justification involves a legal relationship; adoption involves a tender relationship.
 - Justification is in terms of law; adoption comes to us in terms of love.
- ➡ “Before orphans can enjoy the love and care of a new family, they must be legally adopted. Adoption, like justification, is simultaneously legal and relational” (Michael Horton). You’ve been **justified** -- now you’re **adopted as Sons!**

THESIS — From Titus 3.7, I will show you the soul-ravishing privileges of being an heir of eternal life! [An heir! An inheritor! Adopted! A child of God!] We’ll see 4 privileges.

Being an heir of eternal life means:

1. You are **adopted** as a child of God
2. You have an **inheritance** ‘in Christ’
3. You stand in a **hope** unshakeable
4. You have & will receive **eternal life**

I. YOU ARE ADOPTED AS A CHILD OF GOD (7a)

- A.** Perhaps there is nothing in all the world so great as calling God “**Father**”. Thomas Boston said calling God Father is worth more than a thousand worlds!”
- B.** γεννηθῶμεν-This is the inevitable, unshakeable, certain and hope-filled **counterpart** to justification. You became something. The verb signifies that as a justified person now

declared ‘not guilty’ you now **have become** an heir -- a son, a child of God! **And, again, as the Bible interpreters look at the verbal forms, it’s **passive** - God did it!

1. If you are a son, then you are an heir through God (Gal 4.7)
2. Eph 1.5 - He predestined us to adoption as sons.
3. If we are CHILDREN (=of God), then HEIRS, HEIRS of God and fellow heirs of Christ (Rom 8.17)

II. YOU HAVE AN INHERITANCE ‘IN CHRIST’ (7b)

- A. Ps 16.5 - the LORD is my portion of my inheritance
- B. Ps 37.18 - the Lord knows the ways of the blameless and their inheritance will be FOREVER.
 - I. **Joel Beeke writes** -- The overarching privilege of ADOPTION is best summarized as HEIRSHIP. God’s adopted children are all royal heirs apparent and coheirs with Christ.
- C. κληρονόμοι- this is a person who receives his allotted possession by right of sonship. An HEIR is someone who is legally entitled to the property or rank or possessions of another person. **Consider this:** Jeremiah Burroughs: said: “Men may have many children yet but **ONE** is an heir” -- BUT ALL the children of God are heirs.” >> All of us!!
 - we have the **inheritance** among ALL who are sanctified (Acts 20.32)
 - all who are forgiven have an **inheritance** among those who are sanctified thru faith in Christ (Acts 26.18)
 - we have received an **inheritance**, having been predestined by God (Eph 1.11)
 - the SPIRIT is the pledge of our **inheritance** (Eph 1.14)
 - no sinner practicing sin has any **INHERITANCE** in the kingdom of Christ and God (Eph 5.5)
 - The Father has qualified us to share in the **inheritance** of the saints of light (Col 1.12)
 - FROM the LORD we receive the **inheritance** (Col 3.24)
 - Those who have been called will receive the promise of the future **inheritance** (Heb 9.15)
 - we have been born again to obtain an **inheritance** (1 Pet 1.4)
1. So then: we have all the privileges of being God’s children. Every blessing, every gift is ours -- *Ours* as we are ‘in Christ’.
2. God’s inheritance is (1) Undeserved (undeserved, unmerited); (2) Unfading (permanent/cannot be taken away); (3) Unfathomable (eternal, full, rich, reward, heaven). **James 2.5 - what hope & comfort & assurance!**

III. YOU STAND IN A HOPE UNSHAKEABLE (7c)

- A. We are heirs; we are sons; we are children **according to hope**.
- B. Remember at the beginning -- **Titus 1.2** — Paul’s message in the book is for godliness in the hope of eternal life which GOD who cannot lie promised long ages ago. Indeed, in **1.4** - Paul calls God “God the Father” and in the gospel section in **Titus 2.13** Paul tells us to be looking for the blessed HOPE and the appearing of Christ! **Now in Titus 3.7** we are heirs of the **hope** of eternal life!
- C. κατ’ ἐλπίδα- if you’re an heir, then your confidence as a child of God entering heaven rests **according to hope**.

1. Hope is **not** an unrealistic dream or an uncertain wish. Hope is the ***inward response to the Godward promise***. Hope is the trustful expectation, the confident assurance, the earnest anticipation of God’s promises which are guaranteed b/c of His character!
 2. HOPE is not a vague optimism, but a position of trust, based on Scripture, provided by God. --Hope trusts God’s character & promises.
- D. Our hope is sure & steadfast (Heb 6) & it is a hope fixed on God as Father (**1 John 3.3**)! And consider: God loves us & has given us eternal comfort & good hope by grace (2 Thess 2.16). This is the harbor where we can find shelter from life’s rough waters.

IV. **YOU HAVE & WILL RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE (7d)**

- A. 1 John 2.25 - this is the promise which He himself made to us: eternal life! And 1John 5.13 - God wants us to **know** that we have eternal life.
- B. ζῶνς αἰωνίου- being an heir of God, a child of the King, guarantees our ***eternal life*** (cf 1.2).
 1. What security! What protection! What love! What guarantee! What assurance! What covenant! What oath! What an ocean of ***comfort***.
- C. Think of some of the comforts this doctrine provides you:
 1. The simplest believer is a great heir to ALL God’s best blessings.
 2. As heirs, God will provide for his children.
 3. We may boldly come to our Father with any request or burden knowing that He will hear & answer.
 4. Whatever hardship & loss may come, you are still a child of God & will not lose your inheritance. *Thomas Taylor said: “You may lose your liberty, your living, your friends, and your life, but your inheritance is reserved in the heavens”!!!!*
 5. In hardships, your Father may frown and discipline you, but He will never disinherit you.

Child of God -- Heir of the King! -- Responsibilities and Duties:

1. Revere Your Father [honor him]
2. Love Your Father [he loves you]
3. Submit to Your Father’s Providence [all he brings]
4. Obey Your Father
5. Love Your Father’s Children [love the brethren]
6. Resist Temptations to Complain [no grumbling!]
7. Rejoice in Your Father’s Presence [commune!]

ADOPTION is

- ❖ Comforting — haven for the soul
- ❖ Motivating — fuel for holiness!
- ❖ Humbling — astonishing wonder that I’m a SON
- ❖ Reassuring — hope in battling sin

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- Samuel Willard (17th c. Puritan) comforts believers. When you are struggling with sin, alarmed by Satan’s temptations, enticed by the world, or alarmed by fears of death >> TAKE REFUGE IN GOD >>>
- **Willard counsels:** “AM I not still a child? And if so, then I am sure, that though he corrects me (And I deserve it, nor will I refuse to submit myself patiently unto it) yet he cannot take away his loving kindness from me!”
- Willard then concluded>>
- “Be always comforting of yourselves with the thoughts of your adoption. Draw your comforts at this tap, fetch your consolations from this relation; be therefore often chewing upon the precious privileges of it, and make them your rejoicing. Let this joy out-strip the sparkle of every other joy. Let this joy dispel the mists of every sorrow, and clear up your souls in the midst of all troubles and difficulties ‘as you await heavenly glory, where you will live out your perfect adoption by forever communing with the TRIUNE GOD. There you will dwell at the fountain, swim forever in those bankless, and bottomless oceans of glory!”