**August 18, 2019**

**Session 24: Final Issues**

Galatians 4:1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, 21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not; 22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

These are called elements and rudiments because of the nature of how they are directly associated with childhood training and childhood teaching aids. They are only shadows without substance; signs & wonders designed to impress children.

But today, God is not treating you like a child, He's treating you as an adult, and He doesn't utilize things like that with you today. In fact, if you see those kinds of things being utilized, you are to understand those things are NOT of God, but of men. They are counterfeits and fakes which are dishonoring to your Heavenly Father.

Another liberty you have as an adult, adopted son:

(3) Freedom from governorship and limited decision-making

Far from being wonderful and praiseworthy, being under the system of governors under the law was a life of bondage to always having someone else make your decisions for you. You can go back and read throughout God's program with Israel after the law was brought in on them and you can find places where the average Israelite had to go through the judges system (the Sanhedrin, the Priest and finally the High Priest) just to ascertain what God's will was for them in a particular matter.

You realize that the average Israelite didn't have any opportunity or privilege of operating outside of that system; a system that was a part of the childhood treatment. Of all the things that sets Sonship apart from

Childhood, this one is the one that shines the brightest. All we're going to do here is just touch on it, because it will be one of the great issues that we will be looking at very closely as the curriculum begins to get underway in our Sonship Education.

As a son you are free from governorship and limited decision-making. As a son you get to make decisions on your own; decisions that are made in light of your Heavenly Father instructing you out from the pages of His word and not from the opinion of men or any other competing system of wisdom. These are but a few of the distinct differences between being treated like a child under tutors and governors and being treated as an adult, adopted son by your father.

Now that we have looked at the major differences of Sonship, let us make sure we understand adoption properly.

**The Issue of Adoption**

When I talk about “Bible-style” adoption, I am referring to adoption as it was understood and practiced by the Greeks, Romans and the Hebrew peoples.

Adoption today is for a child outside of our family and the motivation for adoption is often pity or love for some orphaned, unfortunate child. And while it may not be the only factor in today’s adoptions, there certainly is quite a bit of emotion involved in the process.

The Adoption that Paul refers to is different. It usually does not involve a child from another family and it is not because a child has lost his parents and although there may be some “emotions” involved, that is far from the primary thought and feeling involved in the process.

Biblically, adoption was for the natural-born children of a family. That is, a Father would adopt His natural son or daughter. And this was not unusual, but rather, it was the rule. The primary motivation for adoption was not pity or some strong emotion of rescue, but it had in mind the welfare of the family’s name and the family’s business.

It is true that on occasion, a man might adopt a son or daughter outside of his own natural children. It may be that he had no children of his own. There is another circumstance that may arise that would have a man adopting someone other than his natural children, but we will discuss that a little later.

If it turns out that a child from outside the family was adopted, it put that adopted son or daughter into a position of legally having the same rights, privileges and liberties as the father’s natural son.

But, as was said, this biblical style adoption was done for the sake of the father’s name, and/or the father’s business.

In adoption, the father would be looking for some specific traits in the son or daughter he would adopt. The father did not just want a son that would be able to carry on the family business, but one that would carry on that business with the same commitment and dedication that he had. The father would want a son that possessed his wisdom and way of thinking. In other words, the father wanted a son who would carry on the business exactly as the father himself would.

To accomplish this adoption, the father would look over his sons, and if he found one that was willing and able to be educated in his father’s business, then the father would adopt that son and begin personally teaching all about his business. He would teach the son the way he (the father) thought, and pass on all his wisdom and experience to his son. This was so that his son would take on his father’s thinking, and living, and then as he labored in his father’s business, all of his dealings were as if it were the father, himself who was engaged in the business. It would really be, “Like father, like son!”

The adopted son would receive his father’s ring, which gave him the same authority over his father’s business, holdings and money and it gave him the same powerful stature as his father. (Remember this had to be done, even with a natural-born son!)

The result of all this ceremony of adoption was that the son would now enjoy all the rights, the honor, the privileges and liberty as the father. But perhaps one of the most striking aspect of being an adopted son

in the ancient world had to do with the position that the son had only

through being adopted; that is, (and this is critical), an adopted son

had a far stronger position than a natural-born child.

He had a permanently fixed, powerfully strong legal standing that was greater than any naturally-born son or heir that hadn’t been adopted! That was very important when it came to dealing with estates, wills, contracts and all the legal issues surrounding the father’s holdings and the father’s estate.

But there is another very important element to understand when thinking about God dealing with you as an adopted son of His. When you are an adopted son, you are considered by your Father to be an ADULT SON. Therefore, you now have greater privileges and greater advantages. Most of all, you now have the freedom and liberty that goes along with being an adult son.

As an adopted son you should expect God to treat you as the adult son or daughter He’s made you to be. As you go through the sonship curriculum, you will see many differences between the way an adult son is treated from that of a child. But for now, I would like for us to briefly look at just a few of those important differences.

**The Prospect of Adoption**

Biblical Adoption: A father adopted his son for the purpose of installing and instilling his wisdom into his son so that the son would labor with his father in all his business.

When you realize what it is that is being offered to you, when you see it for what it really is, then you will know that this is the most important thing you will ever put your hand to, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING in this life.

I realize that what people do is important, all the way from saving lives as a doctor or fireman or police man or soldier all the way to picking up the trash, because believe me, if no one picked up the trash, we would all find ourselves in a special kind of misery. So I’m not saying that what you and I may do for a living isn’t important, I’m saying that whatever it is, it takes a back seat to the business that your heavenly Father wants to prepare you for and train you to do.

And when I say it takes a back seat, I mean in every way imaginable: in importance, in prestige, in honor, in glory, in power, in authority, in influence, in wonder, in impact, in adventure, in pleasure, in fulfillment, in excitement, in joy, in accomplishment, in achievement, in contentment and in success. In all these ways and more your heavenly vocation excels every other job in every way.

No matter how much you love your work, believe me when I say that there is nothing that can be done on this earth, no matter how noble or how beneficial or necessary or fulfilling that can hold a candle to what your heavenly Father is offering you.

And here is the kicker, the fullness of the vocation you are being offered is only going to become a reality for you based upon your getting equipped for it while you are here on earth.

I know that is a bit of a surprise for most saints. They think that when they get to heaven they are going to suddenly and without effort be “filled in” on whatever they missed down here. You won’t. God is not going to magically put the education in you just because you are in heaven.

And one more thing, if you think that working at jobs here on earth, or developing “leadership skills,” or formal education or OTJ training is going to equip you to function out in the heavenly places, then you are in for a shock.

I know there are people who love the Lord but that is not the same thing as having his wisdom installed in them. In the old way of “church,” (which was under the “tutor and governor” principle of the law), you may have been thinking *about* your Father, but under sonship, you are taught how to think *with* Him.

**The 1st Criterion for Adoption**

“A man after God’s own heart.”

This phrase is actually a description of a father-son relationship. It is descriptive of what a father looks for (actually the very 1st thing a father looks for) in a son who he can educate into his business. (And that would apply to earthly father looking to adopt a son just as much as it does to your heavenly Father.)

And the reason you need to know about this is because this is what your heavenly Father is looking at you for – to see if this describes YOU!

This expression, “a man after mine own heart” is far more than simply having a deep desire for spiritual things; or one who deeply loves God; or one who has a deep interest in biblical matters; or whatever. It’s just what it says it is; it’s a son who wants (more than anything else!) to have his Father’s heart imparted to his own heart. And that’s exactly how sonship edification starts! That’s one of the things behind the cry of “Abba, Father!”

**Session 25: Eternity and the Creature**

The Cry of Abba, Father

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, **Abba, Father.**

Simply put, the cry of Abba, Father is the response of “yes” to the Father’s offer to educate the son to be a part of the Father’s business. That is the first VTP and it needs to be done in prayer with your Father. You are going to be spending some time in this real relationship with God, so get it started by treating it as the real thing that it is.

**The Liberty of Sonship**

And as an adopted son, you are now a son with great liberty. And listen carefully, everything that I am going to teach you is going to be matched step for step by some kind of counterfeit; by some kind of “competing wisdom.”

For example, one of the things that you will be offered in place of your Father’s wisdom, is the wisdom of this world. And there are other “wisdoms” that will seek to take the place of your Father’s wisdom. There is a difference between the “wisdom of men” and the “wisdom of this world” and the “wisdom of the princes of this world.” And each one will be presented to you as a match or equal to your Father’s wisdom, but they are not. We will talk in more detail about those competing wisdoms later on in Romans.

* Did you notice that adoption to labor with your Father is held to the last thing in your being taught about your sanctified position in Christ, and it is the first issue in dealing with God resuming His program with Israel. That is because it is the BIG issue to God in both programs. It is big in both programs because in each of them, it’s going to be how He gets His business accomplished to repossess the earth, and to repossess the heavenly places back from the Adversary and his cohorts!

**Level 1 – An adopted Son - Proverbs 1:2-3**

* Phase 1a = To know wisdom & instruction (Rm. 8:14-15)
* Phase 1b = To perceive the words of understanding (Rm. 8:16-39)
* Phase 2 = to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment and equity (Proverbs 3-6)
  1. Wisdom (Rm. 12:3-16)
  2. Justice (Rm. 12:17-13:7)
  3. Judgment (Rm. 13:8-14)
  4. Equity (Rm. 14:1-15:7)

**Level 2 – A simple Son/A Young Man - Proverbs 1:4**

* Phase 1 = To give subtilty to the simple (Eph. 1-3/Phil, Col)
* Phase 2 = to the young man knowledge and discretion (Eph. 4-6)

**Level 3 – A Wise Man/ A Man of Understanding – Proverbs 1:5-6**

* Phase 1 = To give increased learning (I Thess.)
* Phase 2 = to attain unto wise councils (2 Thess.)

**The Significance of Being an Adopted Son**

God did not save you just to keep you from going to hell and so that you could go to heaven, but His primary reason for saving you was so that He could adopt you.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption of sons**. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Why God needed to adopt you – so that you could be educated, through an intimate Father/son relationship

The goal of adoption – so that you can labor alongside your Father in the heavenly places for all eternity – to share in His glory and His business.

How being an adopted son differs from being treated as a child – in that you are offered but not forced to receive this education, in that God fully explains the “why” to the things you are taught, in that the style of teaching is different from child instruction which is a rule-book and case-book type of instruction

That the doctrine for our adoption is radically different from the doctrine for Israel’s adoption.

**Our Work with the Creature**

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

When you see the word “creature,” it not referring to the earth. It is referring to this entire universe. Now I know the Bible doesn’t use the term “universe” or the phrase “outer space.”

Deuteronomy 4:19 And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest **the sun, and the moon, and the stars, *even* all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them**, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

Deuteronomy 17:3 And hath gone and served other gods, and **worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven**, which I have not commanded;

2 Kings 17:16 And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, *even* two calves, and made a grove, and **worshipped all the host of heaven**, and served Baal.

2 Kings 21:3 For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and **worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.**

2 Kings 21:5 And he **built altars for all the host of heaven** in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

2 Kings 23:5 And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that **burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.**

2 Chronicles 33:3 For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and **worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them**.

Jeremiah 8:2 And they shall spread them before **the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped**: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth.

Jeremiah 19:13 And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs **they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven**, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods.

Zephaniah 1:5 And them that **worship the host of heaven** upon the housetops; and them that worship *and* that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham;

Acts 7:42 Then God turned, and **gave them up to worship the host of heaven**; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices *by the space of* forty years in the wilderness?

So, when we get over to Romans 1, what do we find?

We find that “worshipped and served” again, but this time, the Bible does not say, “the sun, moon and stars, or all the host of heaven.” This time it says, “the creature.” It does not say they served the creation, but the creature and there is meaning behind that term; it has life and functions as a single organism or entity.

Since Paul is the one that introduces the heavenly creation as a creature, then it is significant when he brings it up again in Romans 8.

But when God created the universe (or creature) He designed it to function to His honor and glory in a very particular way. When He created this enormous creature, because of an event that took place before man showed up on the planet, when you look out into the heavens with a telescope you are actually looking at something that has come under the vanity of corruption, so you are not seeing in the way God intended for it to function.

In a manner of speaking, (and I mean this loosely) that creature is in a coma, so it seems you are only looking at a lifeless creature when you look out there. It is no wonder we can’t discern that it is a creature. It’s as though you are only looking at body parts of a creature that is so large you have never seen but a small percentage of its body, and at body parts that have largely ceased to function.

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

I want you to notice that when the creature was made subject to vanity, it was not willingly. That is, this creature has (or had) a will! And if something has a will, it has a soul. And if it has a soul, it will need a body that will contain that soul. Just as when God created the heaven and the earth, the heaven encapsulated the earth in its midst, the creature is the body that encapsulates the soul of the creature which, when it is restored will contain the soul (the will!) of the creature.

The Lord set up this earth for the purpose of setting up His residence on it, to rule from the midst of His creation. And because we know how to rightly divide the word of truth, we understand that our Father had designed it so that there is a segment of people that has dedicated to having rulership and dominion on this earth; and it’s not us, it’s Israel.

Jesus will sit on David’s throne as King of kings and there will be a structure of government under Him with resurrected David over Israel and the 12 apostles sitting on throne ruling the 12 tribes of Israel and around the world there will be the remnant of Israel who will be administrating the policies of the Lord Jesus throughout the entire earth.

But that is not what He is going to be doing with us. He suspended that program with Israel in order to form “a new creature.” That’s why you are called a “new creature.” And you are being given a glimpse, in Romans 8 of what your Father has designed for you to do.

Did you notice that when you got to Romans 8:19 and you read that word “creature,” that you are not given an explanation about that creature. So what does that tell you? There is enough information in your Bible before you get to Romans 8 to give you an understanding of what that creature is. What you are going to be doing in eternity is making that creature function again as it was created to do. In a sense, you are going to be the life of that creature. But that is not an entirely accurate analogy. But what I want to say to you is that not every believer will get to do that; only those who are “joint-heirs” with Christ who suffered with Him, they are the ones who get to do this.

But to be involved in the Father’s business in this huge, enormous creature – to bring that creature to the place where it functions to God’s honor and glory – that is the carrot that He is dangling out in front of you. And just in case you don’t quite see the “carrot” aspect of this and what makes this so desirable to be a part of, let me just say that you will not believe the details that are left out of this very small, very general explanation of these verses.

But just let this grip you: you are going to be part of a very small group of people who will wind up spending every day of your life until the day you die, as a vocational training ground that will enable you to sit in a seat of authority in the government of God and “run the show” so to speak, about making this creature function like it was supposed to all along but never has. As that begins to soak in and make an impact on you, when you see the magnitude of what all is involved here (and we, by no means, have explored that yet) it will set your attitude that there is nothing that you will ever do in your life (including being elected as President, finding a cure for cancer, becoming a war hero or saving the life of a drowning swimmer) that can possibly match this.

**The Required Commitment**

What enables us to do that work in the creature is the education we will receive in Romans-2 Thessalonians. We will need to make a considerable commitment to that education before we begin.

* The commitment to LEARNING (Honest Attendance: we are here for the right reason)
* The commitment to the EFFECTUAL WORKING of what you learn (Interactive Learning: we will not go home until we understand the doctrine)

There is one other area of commitment we should make.

* The commitment to make the education a TOP PRIORITY

This third commitment can be seen in two different ways:

1. In order for these two areas of commitment to work, we must make the education a top priority,
2. When the first two commitments are in place, then they produce the third commitment

Either way, when something is a top priority, it means you organize your life around it because of how important it is. That is not to say that you will quit your job and move to the mountains and hermit away studying sonship. But it does mean that this has such a place of importance to you that your commitment to it makes it your highest priority.

**The Conversation in Heaven**

Philippians 3:20 For **our conversation is in heaven**; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

There is something that happens to a son that is “known” up there and “talked about” in those heavenly places to the extent that they can’t wait until you get there. I’m telling you that the thrill, the rejoicing and the glory of that is going to be greater than you can imagine. It will be more than a hero’s welcome. Why? Because those angels not only know who you are but they know why you are coming to their realm and what you are going to do when you get there. They are excited, thrilled and rejoicing over the entire creature being delivered from the bondage of corruption!

Those heavenly places, which have been controlled for so long by the minions of Satan and which have never properly functioned, will be taken over by us (the educated, adopted, sons of God) and for the first time, righteousness and godliness is coming to their realm. That may not yet seem like a big deal to you, but it is a very big deal to them. Look at it like this, the entire future of their realm is in your hands!

* You are bringing life to a creature that is, for all intents and purposes, dead.
* You are bringing righteousness to an evil place.
* You are bringing light to a place of darkness.
* You, as the godly creature you are, are being installed by God in a place that has been the epitome of ungodliness.
* You are taking the creation, which has been controlled by the adversary for so long and putting it back under the direction and control of its Creator

The cry of Abba, Father is saying “yes” to the opportunity to be educated with all of this in mind.

The cry of Abba, Father is an indicator of our desire to be a part of this.

And with all this in mind, having passed the checkpoint of Romans 12:1-2, we are ready to begin the education that will prepare us for the greatest endeavor we have ever engaged in; our education as adopted sons!

* What should we be doing with the mercies of God?
  + We should talking to God about our understanding of what they are and why they were given to us, along with an expression of our gratitude for them

What does Living Sacrifice involve?

* + Yielding our members as servants of righteousness instead of servants to sin
  + Dealing with sin in our members by means of the doctrine; specifically the first two components of our sanctification: 1) dead to sin, and 2) alive unto God

What does it mean to be alive unto God?

* It means that we now have the ability to produce a righteousness that God is pleased with
* Righteousness is not determined by the nature of the act which is committed, but by the source of the act. If the source of our “good deed” is us (our flesh), then the act is condemned as “self-righteous.” If the source is God (what God has provided and given to us as a gift of grace) then the act is righteous.
* When we deal with sin in our members by means of our new identity components of being made dead to sin and alive unto God, when we say “no” to sin because God has set us free from sin and its mastership and because God has made us to be holy (set apart unto Him) for the purpose of serving Him, that is what it means to:
  + Live out of your new identity in Christ
  + Walk after the Spirit
  + Live out of grace
  + Live out of the doctrine

What does Holy involve?

* + Holy has to do with more than being generally “set apart” unto God as sanctified people, but more specifically involves the issue of being adult, adopted Sons and Daughters. We are “set apart” for the purpose of having our Father’s wisdom installed in us so that we are able to labor with Him in His business.

What does Acceptable involve?

* + Acceptable has to do with the doctrines which are designed to give us an absolute confidence in 1) Our Father, and 2) His word. Acceptable means that we trust what our Father says to us in the face of the competing and conflicting wisdoms of this world, of men and of the princes of the world.

What is Romans 12:1 asking us to do?

* + Romans 12:1 is asking us to demonstrate that we are ready and prepared for the Sonship Education.
  + We are asked to recite our understanding of 3 specific issues which have to do with our sanctification and report on how they are working in us.
  + In a nutshell, those three issues concern our ability to deal with sin by walking after the Spirit, to make the intelligent and honest cry of Abba, Father and to be persuaded of the integrity of our Father and His word.
* What is the “Good” aspect of God’s will?
  + This is the godly thinking
* What is the “Acceptable” aspect of God’s will?
  + This is the godly living
* What is the “Perfect” aspect of God’s will?
  + This is the godly labor