

We Belong to Him

We are all called and in the process of becoming legally adopted to an intimate and personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ our Savior. God's plan for mankind is revealed through His Holy Days, and we have an understanding because we are being obedient to His Commandments in keeping them. We have a great deal to rejoice about being in this great spiritual family. How can anything be negative in our lives with so great a gift being given to us? With Passover upon us in 4 days, we have had several months since Tabernacles to prepare ourselves for our Covenant renewal and begin the Spring Holy Days.

Matthew 10:27-28- "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish *forever*; and no one shall take them out of My hand."

We have a relationship with Jesus Christ because we are "in Him" and He is "in us," we become one with Him.

John 6:54-56- “The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day; For My flesh is truly food, and My blood is truly drink. The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood is dwelling in Me, and I in him.”

Romans 8:10-11- “But if Christ *be* within you, the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. Now if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from *the* dead is dwelling within you, He Who raised Christ from *the* dead will also quicken your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells within you.”

We have a new relationship only when we are "in Jesus Christ," accepting and relying on Jesus Christ's sacrifice of paying the sin debt for all mankind. We therefore must be committed to keeping His laws, all of them. We are in the process of being adopted and becoming heirs of Christ and to God's Kingdom.

Romans 8:12-17- “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh; Because if you are living according to the flesh, you shall die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you shall live. For as many as are led by the spirit of God, these are the sons of God. Now

you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear, but you have received the Spirit of sonship, whereby we call out, “Abba, Father.” The spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit, testifying that we are the children of God. Now if we are children, we are also heirs-truly heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-if indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him.”

We are promised complete legal adoption as sons in the family of God.

Ephesians 2:19- “So then, you are no longer aliens and foreigners; but you are fellow citizens with the saints and are of the household of God.”

Household means family; and, in other words, we are children of God. I’m sure that many church going people who worship on Sunday believe they too are children of God, but they will have no inheritance unless they obey God’s Commandments and keep Sabbaths and His Holy Days. Many people will awake one day to the realization that He never knew them.

Matthew 7:20-23- “Therefore, you shall assuredly know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;

but the one who *is* doing the will of My Father, Who *is* in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name? And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?’ And then I will confess to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness.’”

Being a Christian is not merely an entitlement as so many people think. Being in the Family of God isn’t something that comes by saying a “sinner’s prayer” or going to Church on Christmas and Easter, keeping the traditions of men. So much more than that, we must do our part in being obedient to God’s laws and Commandments.

Matthew 15:8-9- ““These people have drawn near to Me with their mouths, and with their lips they honor Me; but their hearts are far away from Me. For they worship Me in vain, teaching *for doctrine the* commandments of men.’ ”

Mark 7:6-8- “And He answered *and* said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching *for doctrine the* commandments of men.’ For leaving the commandment of God,

you hold fast to the tradition of men, *such as* the washing of pots and cups; and you practice many other things like *this*.”

When we celebrate Passover, we are taking in the body and blood of Jesus Christ and acknowledging His sacrifice for the remission of our sins. The majority of “Christianity” will be celebrating Easter, His resurrection which they believe occurred on a Sunday morning at sunrise. Their lack of scriptural knowledge causes them to miss the opportunity to be in the First Resurrection. We know from our studies that Christ rose on the Sabbath. Those who believe it was a Sunday morning forget the passage in Daniel where Satan changes the times and laws.

Daniel 7:25- “And he shall speak words against the Most High and shall wear out the saints of the Most High and think to change the set times and the laws. And they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and one-half time.”

Colored eggs and chocolate bunnies are nowhere to be found in God’s Word. Jesus Himself commanded us to remember and keep the Passover.

Luke 22:15-20- “And He said to them, “With earnest desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you that I will not eat of it again

until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” And He took a cup; and after giving thanks, He said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I say to you, I will not drink at all of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God has come.” And He took bread; and after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body, which is given for you. This do in the remembrance of Me.” In like manner also, He took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.”

1 Corinthians 11:24-29- “And after giving thanks, He broke *it* and said, “Take, eat; this is My body, which *is* being broken for you. This do in the remembrance of Me.” In like manner, *He* also *took* the cup after He had supped, saying, “This is *the* cup of the New Covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in the remembrance of Me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you *solemnly* proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes. For this reason, *if* anyone shall eat this bread or shall drink the cup of the Lord unworthily, he shall be guilty of the body and *the* blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself and let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup accordingly Because the one who eats and drinks unworthily is eating and drinking judgment to himself, not discerning the body of the Lord.”

This verse implies we must be in right standing, recognizing the critical importance of what we are agreeing with. The enemy will heap loads of guilt on us each year at this time and that word “unworthily” gets louder every year. But if we are striving to grow in our relationship with God, quick to repent when we fail, and developing in our walk and likeness of our Savior Jesus Christ, Satan can just be still. It may be difficult at times to look inward, but we can ask ourselves, how much have we grown since last year? Are we still sitting at “Go” on the board or are we moving forward as we should be? We may be able to kid ourselves, but God is the One who hands out the report cards. He judges us based on our hearts and love and devotion to Him.

As children of God, we have to produce good works. If we are members of the household of God, it is necessary. We just mentioned in Ephesians 2:19 that we are members of the household of God, but here the term "family" is directly used in association with what God is the Head of. He is the Head of the family. It is the assembly, us, that group which belongs to God and is one with Him.

It is impossible to be a Christian without being a child of God. As a member of God's family, we have certain privileges; God is our Father, we have the right to approach Him.

Hebrews 4:16- “Therefore, we should come with boldness to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

We have Jesus as our Savior and Intercessor to the very Throne of God. We have the great privilege of being even more than Christ's friend. We know He called His disciples friends (**John 15:15**). We have the honor and privilege of being brothers and sisters of Christ—children of the Father, the Almighty God of all Creation. As a reminder, we all have responsibilities in the covenant we are about to partake. You cannot “play church” with God, especially if you are baptized. There is no going back.

God knew who He would call before we were born.

Ephesians 1:5- “Having predestined us to sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will.”

Romans 8:28-30- “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Because those whom He did foreknow, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His

own Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Now whom He predestinated, these He also called, and whom He called, these He justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

While God may have set us aside at birth, we may not wake up to the calling until we are well on in years. Better late than never! We also need to keep in mind that while predestination may be a type of an assurance, this assurance can be cancelled!

As His children, called by God Himself and having access to His mind through His Spirit, we are guided to produce good fruit, because we want to be like Him, to grow in the likeness of His Son. We desire to walk with Him, and we want to think like Him. God's people are to be faithful and loyal in their dutiful response to God. We are to live by His every Word (**Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4, Luke 4:4**). God's loyalty to His covenant and His promises, *demands* a response of loyalty from His people. God is faithful; and therefore, His people are required to respond with faithfulness to His commands. All He wants us to do is to love Him first, trust Him, and to be obedient.

We are in the process of legal adoption. It is important that we understand this in the doctrine that Paul teaches, in Ephesians 2. We can all become one in the family of God.

John 1:12-13- “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. Who were not begotten by bloodlines, nor the will of the flesh, not by the will of man, but by the will of God.”

Deuteronomy 7:6-9- “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a special people to Himself above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love upon you nor choose you because you were more in number than any people, for you were the fewest of all people. But because the Lord loved you and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you out of the house of bondage from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Therefore, know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God Who keeps covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations.”

That is why Paul says in I Corinthians 1:27-28 that God has chosen the weak and the poor and the foolish of the earth to confound those so-called intellectuals with the understanding and discerning minds. In our calling we have been given knowledge and understanding of such incredible value that its worth is impossible to calculate. So few have been given this gift it is overwhelming to think of being chosen from all the billions of people who have ever lived on the earth!

Galatians 4:6-7- “And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying Abba Father. So then, you are no longer a servant, but a son. And if a son, you are also an heir of God through Christ.”

Without our keeping of God's Sabbaths and Holy Days, we would otherwise be clueless to the Plan of God. Through the gift of God's Holy Spirit, we are given understanding. Understanding is different from knowledge. Some people with ample knowledge are incredibly ignorant when discerning the plan of God.

Ignorance can be cured but we know that we can't fix stupid. Without God's Spirit the Bible makes no sense whatsoever. Discarding the Old Testament because it is “Jewish” or it has “been done away with” sets up the failure for all who subscribe to this thinking. The mystery of God's plan can only be discerned through special revelation through God's Holy Spirit. God did the choosing (choosing the weak and

base of the world); we did not. God is in control. Our lives must be in total submission to His will, completely devoted in our preparation for what God has in store for our lives as a member of His Family. Understanding God's Word and His way of life can only be achieved through our belief, faith, obedience, and commitment to it. We will be led by God's Holy spirit and follow the example set by our Savior Jesus Christ. We belong to God.

Psalm 100:1-5- "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God. It is He Who has made us, and not we ourselves; and we are His; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; give thanks unto Him and bless His name, For the LORD is good; His steadfast love is everlasting; and His faithfulness endures to all generations."

When we repent and are baptized into the family of God, we become sealed as His children, heirs to His Kingdom. It does not come easy, nor does it happen with a "sinners prayer," or a wafer and string of beads." We must follow in the footsteps of Jesus and obey the Commandments just as He did.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22- “For whatever promises of God *there are*, in Him *is* the yes, and in Him the Amen, with glory to God by us. But He Who establishes us with you in Christ, and Who has anointed us, *is* God, Who has also sealed us and has given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”

John 17:8-10- “For I have given them the words that You gave to Me; and they have received them and truly have known that I came from You; and they have believed that You did send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world, but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. All Mine are Yours, and all Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.”

Love, trust, and obey God. Do the work that is commanded of us and have the faith, that we may grow in the image of His Son. We may then proclaim the family to which we belong. Never forget, we are no longer strangers or foreigners but His called, His children, and members of the family of God. How precious it is knowing we belong to Him! Amen.