

I Was Predestined To Adoption

by Tim Conway

This sermon delves into the profound concept of adoption as sons and daughters of God through Jesus Christ, emphasizing the immense privilege and glory of being chosen and predestined for adoption. The speaker challenges the audience to fully grasp and be energized by the truth of their adoption, highlighting the surpassing love and grace of God in making us His children. The sermon underscores the need for believers to respond with praise, worship, and a deep appreciation for the immeasurable riches of God's kindness and love in adopting them into His family.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:5, Romans 8:15, 1 John 3:1, Jeremiah 3:19, Luke 12:32, Luke 14:26

Topics: "Adoption in Christ", "The Love of God"

Description

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Transcript

Ephesians chapter 1. Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus, grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Now if you've ever read this before, I just want to point something out that once Paul announces these spiritual blessings, every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, he then means to articulate what those blessings, at least some of them, some of the greatest of them, he begins to articulate what those blessings are and he continues this.

Really the first three chapters is heavily that reality and then after that he dives into the practical implication of the reality of all of these spiritual blessings. Verse 4, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him. Now somebody along the way in dividing up the scriptures into verses and chapters, originally they left in love in verse 4 and in in the Greek it's difficult to know exactly where it should be because there isn't punctuation and capitalization and so that we should be holy and blameless before him in love or you can put a period after him as the ESV does and include this with verse 5. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ

according to the purpose of his will to the praise of his glorious grace with which he has blessed us in the beloved.

Now I have an agenda this afternoon, it's three o'clock and it's already getting dark, you know that doesn't strike many of you probably as a strange thing but it does me still even after being in here two winters already. My agenda this afternoon is this, I don't think we are gripped by and energized by the truth of our adoption as we ought to be. Probably in my estimation, probably, if I'm just looking at myself in the mirror and I'm evaluating where I'm at with regards to this, I suspect that the reality is that this truth of our adoption has not produced the kind of praise and worship that it obviously produced in Paul.

That's what verse 6 is, to the praise of his glorious grace. Actually glorious in the original is not an adjective, it is a noun, it is the glory of his grace. There is a glory in adoption that is bringing forth praise from the lips of the apostle Paul, at least from the end of his pen, and I just wonder does it produce that kind of praise? I mean you have to think about this, when he's talking about these spiritual blessings, he throws this real close to the beginning.

Now listen to this, just listen, I'm not asking you to agree or disagree and this is a man's opinion or at least a man's observation. Listen to this, J.I. Packer says, it's a strange fact that the truth of adoption has been little regarded in Christian history. Apart from two 19th century books, now scarcely known, one's called the Fatherhood of God, the other the Reformed Doctrine of Adoption, Packer says aside from those two that are virtually unknown, he says there's no evangelical writing on this subject, nor has there been any time since the Reformation, any more than there was before the Reformation.

Luther's grasp of adoption was as strong and clear as his grasp of justification, but his disciples held to the former and made nothing of the latter. The Puritan teaching on the Christian life, so strong in other ways, was notably deficient here. Question, does the doctrine of adoption really matter? Maybe Christians haven't given it very much attention, precisely for the fact because it's not very important.

But you know what, if we start thinking that, that's not the prevalent thinking. Now listen to this, I gathered these together and I think this is amazing. John Murray, here's a quote from John Murray, you all know him? When we visited Scotland we were taken to his grave.

Our brother Jeff Thomas sat under him when he was in seminary. Listen to Murray, the apex, get that word, apex of redemptive grace and privilege. That's what he says about adoption.

Here we have the ultimate source and the highest privilege brought together. That's John Murray. How about this, J.I. Packer again.

Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption. It is the highest privilege that the gospel offers. Higher even than the gift of justification.

Adoption is the crowning blessing of all the gifts of grace. Adoption is the highest, the climax of the Bible. The Puritan Thomas Watson says, extol and magnify God's mercy who has adopted you into his family.

Adoption is greater mercy than Adam had in paradise. You say, wow, the Puritan John Owen said of adoption, it's our fountain privilege. Don't you love that? Robert Raymond, my favorite author of a systematic theology, this is what he says, can Christians enjoy any blessedness or privilege higher than that access to God the Father through his Son and Spirit, which as members of his household they enjoy? What blessedness can possibly supersede the blessedness of simply being a child of the Holy God?

There is none.

Not justification, not sanctification, however great those privileges are. Martin Lloyd-Jones, the final and ultimate end of redemption. That's what he says adoption is, the ultimate or the final and ultimate end of redemption.

There is nothing, nothing, nada, higher than this. Our adoption is the highest expression even of God's love and I speak carefully and with reverence when I assert that. What's he asserting? That the statements in Scripture concerning adoption are the highest expression of the love of Almighty God.

There is nothing higher than this. Now, brothers and sisters, if these guys are right, I'm afraid we're wrong. Most of us.

Maybe you're an exception and I just don't know, but I have a feeling that I have to admit I do not carry around with myself such a grasp of the glory, the glory of God's grace expressed in adoption that got Paul singing and praising. I don't think I do. But see, the question is these are just men.

Are they correct? That's really the question. They're only men. They could be wrong, but are they wrong? That's the question of the hour.

And you know what it comes back to is this, does God's Word give us reason to say what they're saying? Does it affirm that? Is adoption the highest blessing? Is it the crowning blessing? Is it the apex? Is it that which is not to be superseded by any of the other blessings of God? Is it the highest expression of the love of Almighty God? And now let me ask you this, does your mind go anywhere in the New Testament where you would probably go first if you were looking for a text that had to do maybe with one of the strongest assertions about God making us sons? Where? Romans 8 is a good place to go. 1st John 3 is a tremendous place to go. Let's go to 1st John 3. Sorry Sonny.

No, but it is a fantastic place to go. But just the reason I choose 1st John over Romans 8 is simply because of the way John expresses himself. Because 1st John 3, you'll see it for yourself.

Now I'm reading from the English Standard Version. See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. Many of you are more familiar with behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.

The New American Standard says, see how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us. And you see the reason that I wanted to go here is for this reason. Romans 8 does not stress this like it's stressed here.

Behold what manner. You know that word? Manner. ESV says kind.

It's the class. It's the category. See what kind, what class of love this is.

See. He's saying feel this. You need to get it.

Understand it. Fix your gaze here. Now here's the thing.

John isn't telling us to fix our gaze on adoption. He's not telling us to fix our gaze on the fact that we're children. You see what he's saying.

He wants us to behold the sort of love that would do such a thing. That's where he wants us taken up. What does it take for God to make somebody like us into his child? See how great that is.

That's like the New American Standard. It's see what a great love. Behold that.

How great, how wonderful, how glorious. What kind of love, what class of love, what category of love would ever do this? Now look, there are, I think, as much as my mind moving back and forth through Scripture, I can only think of two expressions in all of our Bible that like talk about God's love in doing something as though it's like way out of here. It's in a class all by itself.

One is when he gave his son for sinners. God so loved. That little word S-O is massive there.

What John is saying is that this there's a there's a category of love here that even surprises the writer. And then you'll remember this Romans 8. He who did not spare his own son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him graciously give us all things? You see that that's an expression there even though that verse doesn't specifically call out his love but what it's saying is this.

Look that that obviously is the greatest expression of his love because if he'll do that then he'll do every other thing. So comparatively give his son versus giving you everything. Well obviously it makes giving of the son the greatest thing.

He's so loved. So the second expression is that which we just saw in John. Behold what manner of love the Father is bestowed upon us.

In both instances we are confronted by that which the author is taken up with. He's so loved. Behold what manner.

It's so great. It's so special. Behold what kind of love would do this.

That's the idea. The only way and you know what the only way in both places that the author the inspired author would even try to tell you how great the love is it's just simply by telling you what he did. In both of them.

What did he do? Well God gave his son for the sinner. That's the first thing and then he makes that sinner a son. That's the second thing and you know what we're so used to it brethren.

It's pathetic. It's pathetic how used to this we are. So that doesn't even strike us with the kind of I can you see what he did to Paul? The guy comes unglued.

We don't come unglued. And if you're British you're twice as likely not to come unglued. That's the reality.

Look what the author is saying here is there's a category of brethren you understand this. There is a category of love that will give an apple to their child and there's a category there's a kind there's a class of love that moves up from that. Where I would give an apple to a stranger and then there's a kind of love that moves up from that where I might give an apple to an enemy.

You see there's a kind of love that moves up in the value of the gift. Somebody might give a car. Somebody might actually let you move into their house and live with them.

You see we recognize that there are different levels. There are different strata. There are different classes of love.

That's that's the idea. But what class of love is it that would sacrifice your own son for somebody who doesn't deserve it? Only to make the person that doesn't deserve it your child. I mean that's the kind of thing that we have and I would just say this what kind of love what class would you put love into that God would have that he would actually set his love on me even in the same way that he sets his love on Christ.

And listen in Jesus high priestly prayer Jesus prays that the world may know that you he's speaking to his father loved them his disciples even as you loved me. And you know if you begin to search even as it is a word of comparison it's a word that has to do with to the same degree to the same extent in proportion to just as brothers and sisters you might want to meditate on that reality like for the rest of eternity. God intends his relationship with you if you're a Christian he intends his relationship with believers to be a very reflection a very reproduction of Jesus own fellowship with his father.

I mean do you recognize what God has done? God has swept us right into Trinitarian love saving you have to recognize this to the praise of the glory of his grace. What you have is Almighty God who is wanting to come along and show you a glory of the grace of his love towards sinners. And what God has done is he says I'm not going to do anything halfway here I am going to express such love that is absolutely going to stagger the universe and all of creation and all of the angels and everything that God ever creates are going to be totally staggered by how God would do this and who we would do it to what the cost of it would be that's the kind of love that he's putting on display here.

That's exactly it. Now yes look there are realities about Jesus Sonship that can never be true of me but there a verse like John 17 23 that the world may know that you love them even as you love me a verse like that seems to suggest that in the same way God throws his whole being into doing good to the Son of God Christ himself so he throws his whole self into doing good to the adopted ones. Listen do you remember we can cruise across this Jesus said this remember when he was there with Mary in the garden after he rose and he said go tell my brothers and that's interesting he doesn't say disciples he doesn't say my followers my servants even my friends he says go to my brothers and say to them I am ascending to my father and your father my God your God you see how he puts it and on such an equal plane do you recognize this think with me Romans 8 if we are children of God then we are what heirs and fellow heirs co-heirs with who what does that mean that means that whatever he gets we get I mean do you know what it says just a little ways later in Ephesians it says in the coming ages that God is going to show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness to us in Christ Jesus see we're in we're one with him and what God is going to do our heavenly father is he do you recognize what that he's even saying he plans to constantly show us in ways that only he knows I mean because what do you do with words immeasurable riches of his grace and kindness I mean what do you even do with that what are the specifics there well it doesn't say but I'll tell you what you don't want to miss out on that in ways that only he knows more and more and more he is going to express his love upon those that he's redeemed which is only you know what that's going to do it's only going to increase our love back to him all through eternity the future prospect of all of us who call God our father is what it's this it's an eternity of love I mean you know what Packer says he says this is like a fairy tale he says in real life Kings don't adopt sons and daughters of a felon a king might adopt a niece or a nephew some extended relative of the family but we aren't royalty we're sons of the traitor no one in real life adopts the likes of us no one in real life adopts a 25 year old mass murderer you know I'm not a mass murderer you know what scripture says we are we're God murders we would have cried out crucify him just as well as the rest left in our natural state we're worse I mean you

know what nobody that wants a dog goes to the Middle East and goes to a junkyard and finds the most foaming at the mouth rabid mongrel to take home as a lapdog that doesn't happen in real life the Ephesians 1:5 says hold it this this is no fairy tale there actually is a king in real life that takes the wretched thing and says I want you to be my son I'm gonna make you a prince and you know what we need we just need the day of his power like we talked about from Psalm 110 that's what we need we need an outpouring some fresh revelation to our souls of this reality the beauty the glory of this doctrine the preciousness of what it means to be adopted in the household of God in love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ pre-test did you get that he predestined us for adoption yes that concept is actually in the Bible folks predestination God's choice of certain individuals to adoption in our estimation it may seem absolutely arbitrary but you know what it's not now God doesn't tell us the reason why he chooses one sinner over another to make into a son or a daughter doesn't tell us that but don't conclude that he's without his reasons you don't want to come to that conclusion why because it says it's according to the purpose or the good pleasure of his will you see that ESV says purpose King James says good pleasure but the fact is God does it because it's his will to do it it's his pleasure to do it it's his purpose to do it don't conclude he's without his reasons he doesn't tell us why but he has his reasons he has a will behind all this it's according to the purpose of his will that's Paul's way of saying look God's under no obligation to explain himself to us why he chooses one over another but let's all remember something in this though God doesn't make known to you and me the reason why one is chosen when others passed over we do know this he offers he offers sonship and adoption freely as a gift to all and on terms actually that in one sense couldn't be easier it's presented as a free gift come to Christ trust him and you'll receive the adoption as a free gift of grace isn't that what scripture says listen to it you know this to all who did receive him Christ who believed in his name he gave the right to become children of God you ever read that you receive Christ but you got to take him in his entirety you got to take him with all of his commands all of his authority all of his lordship not just the pardon of sin you have to take him as a full package if you'll receive him then you see and you know what if people won't accept God's pardon and God's free offer of sonship but rather they prefer their sins rather they prefer to stay in the way of being a son of the devil if they prefer that if nothing can convince them to come and surrender lay down their weapons to this Christ and receive him and be saved and become a son why should they complain about predestination nobody should complain if the doors of the banquet are thrown open and everybody's invited if you're too busy with getting married and having oxen and just having bought new land I mean while others are willing and they go in why in the world do you have a problem with God's predetermined adoption it's there to be had I love this verse I thought I'd just read it right here Jeremiah 31:9 I said this is God speaking how I would set you among my sons and daughters I'm adding that and give you a pleasant land a heritage most beautiful of all nations and I thought you would call me my father and would not turn from following me I just find an appeal in that verse God would have you to be his child now look the comes the concept of adoption let's just talk about that for a second it's not found in the Old Testament it's very interesting you know so much of the New Testament is built on the foundation of the Old Testament but you know one of the things we don't find in the old you know under the Mosaic law you don't really find any provision for adoption adoption is not a Mosaic concept you know what it is it's a Roman concept it's basically the term adoption has to do with in stating as a son and Paul you know this concept is only found in the New Testament it's only found in Paul's writings Paul's the only one that specifically mentions adoption yes some of the other letters talk about being children of God or God being our father but the only place you're gonna find the term adoption used is Pauline and so under Roman law basically basically what they did was they made provision for an adult this typically happened among rich people you know you get somebody rich and he has a lot of wealth where's the wealth gonna go when he dies he

doesn't well obviously if he's got his own children that's where it's gonna go but this is this was a provision for rich Romans who for whatever reason they lost their children or they couldn't have children or whatever never got married or who knows what the situation was but basically Roman law made provision for an adult they who didn't have any children who wanted an heir somebody to carry on the family name somebody that he could adopt as a son and some young man was typically selected who had shown himself somehow fit to carry on the family name in a worthy way and you recognize this about adoption adoption is always the prerogative of the father right nobody comes nobody under Roman law would come along who was the child and demand by law that some parent had to adopt them adoption is always the choice of the father or the mother but father usually the choice in adoption always rests with the one doing the adopting not the one being adopted if you become a parent by way of adoption you made the choice you're the one who made that call no one's legally bound to adopt somebody as their child there's no duty at all it's Roman law made provision for this nobody was demanded to do this not no obligation and you know what the fact is if God had left us in our sins to perish what could we say what are you gonna say to him you owe me adoption well you can't say that I have a right to be a son no you have no right it's the prerogative of the father and the concept of adoption is a legal term why do I bring that up because the fact is it's got to do with legally I have the right of becoming someone's son the emphasis on adoption is not the nature of the child it's the legal standing of the child you need to get that when we speak of the child being adopted we're at once implying that the child does not at all possess any sort of blood relationship to the parents adoption does not form a blood relationship there's no way an adopted child is ever gonna get the 23 chromosomes from the mom and 23 chromosomes from the dad it's not gonna happen the same blood doesn't flow through their veins they may get adopted and imitate their adopted parents but the bloodline there's no blood connection it's only a legal one that's all it is that the fact is that in Christianity we actually do get the nature of our father but that's got nothing to do with adoption what does that have to do with regeneration right so let me talk Packer and Raymond both believe adoption is the highest privilege of the gospel offers higher even than justification so let's talk about that just for a second let's compare justification and adoption both are legal declarations right adoption legally declares that I'm somebody's son justification legally declares that my sin is pardoned declares me just so we think about this both adoption and justification are based on faith are they not were justified by faith to as many as received him and believed on his name that's what scripture teaches in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith that's what scripture teaches us so both becoming a son of God and becoming justified in the courtroom of God they're both by faith but justification has to do with our relationship with God as a lawgiver and a judge right it's a courtroom term it has to do with what that the believer is not liable to the penalty deserved for the sins we've committed we don't get death when we deserve death that's what justification has to do with because as our substitute and sacrifice he tasted death on our behalf he stood in our place he took our punishment upon himself my debt has been paid Jesus paid it all that's the idea and so I'm pardoned in God's courtroom and justification declares that I am legally acquitted I'm a free man but but you know what justification never guarantees me any intimacy with the judge afterwards right I mean I can walk away but the judge may have nothing to do with me the judge may hate me he may have acquitted me on legal terms but he may not like me he may not want anything to do with me certainly there's nothing in justification that requires him to bring me into his family you see how adoptions better now adoption presupposes justification because it presupposes that whatever whatever barriers there were have been removed but the fact is yes it presupposes pardon yes but adoption lifts us higher where does it take us I mean folks to be right with God as a judge yeah that's great be taken into God's family to be cared for by him as a father that's greater that's greater because there's infamy it's it's like God has not only broken down all the barriers now God brings me right to where I'm his child he's my father one deals

with a ruler and his subjects but the other one has to do with a father and his children folks we have to feel the privilege of adoption I'm gonna make one more effort here to try to get us to feel that suppose I committed a fault against you by accident so let me see your laptop and I dropped it I'm just being clumsy and I dropped it I'd be thankful if you forgave me what if I took your laptop and I thought I don't like him smashed it but later on I felt well that was stupid and I feel sorry and you forgave me yeah I'd be happy but what if I committed crimes not against you but suppose I committed them against a king and I did things so bad that I actually deserve to be burned at the stake I deserve to be burned in a fire that's never quenched let me tell you something if God came if I committed crimes that deserve that unquenchable flames forever and God came along and said I've got some good news for you I'm going to annihilate you that would be good news if it doesn't strike you as good news all you have to do is think about the kind of good news that would be to everybody in hell right now who are faced with the prospect that this suffering is forever and if you could basically make it so that they was like they sleep forever like before they were born they would take it in a second to just make the pain stop that'd be a tremendous mercy tremendous but what if he forgives my defiance against him he pardons me and then he sends me home I jump for joy I mean I deserve that and any he's pardoned he sends what if I'm forgiven and he tells me he's gonna shower me with untold wealth I mean I would hardly know how to answer but if that King says despite all the wickedness you've done against me I pardon you I love you I give my only begotten son for you I'm gonna bring you home to my house to the royal family as my child I'm gonna be a father to you you'll you're gonna sit on my throne you're gonna wear a crown what if God said that to you he said look I want you to know that in all my omniscience omnipotence I am Almighty God as much as I have been able to stretch my mind and my thinking I am going to make you an object of the greatest expression of grace that I can conceive of now I'm not gonna say I know what God can conceive of the very fact that we're being we're even being put in the category of love where he's loving us as he loves Christ we're I mean if God said there's no higher place my love can exalt you it's like if we've just been good our whole lives you know if we've been faithful servants in the end all we've done has been faithful we don't deserve anything but after the things that we've done and what we deserve God says I'm not just making you a free man I'm not just making you a friend you're to be my son you see what John see behold you gotta get this the category of love that the Father has given to us that we should be called the children of God and so we are so we are that's the climax that's the apex that's the crowning blessing of all the blessing that can't be superseded the ultimate end of redemption nothing higher among the expressions of God's love the highest privilege of the gospel the apostle doesn't want us just to sit there emotionless and read it look at this he predestined us for adoption his sons through Jesus Christ according to the purpose of his will to the praise of the glory of his grace you know what God wants he wants worship if all I do is recognize my sonship and I stop short there that's not what God you know what God wants you to do he wants you to shout and why would you not want to shout he wants you to get excited he wants you to jump up and down he wants you to praise him for all the magnificent glory in this the glory he wants you to get excited yes even if you live in Great Britain he wants you to get excited what is his love that swallowed me up to the praise of his glorious grace there's glory in this adoption declares to us something about God something about his grace his glory has to do you know the glory of God is what makes God God and God means to put himself on display he doesn't do things by halves this is no trifle folks that we've been brought into the family God wants us to gaze on this doctrine of adoption he wants us to behold the glory in it and he wants us to fall down with praise and so I just say this you know what when Jesus comes along and he says unless you forsake all that you have you can't be my disciples you know what you know what Jesus shows he shows us that in in a parable where the guys walking along and he finds a treasure and he says wow this treasure and you know what he doesn't sulk all the way to going to sell all that he has so that he can

buy that land and get that treasure you know what he says he says wow that treasure is that I can't believe it and all I have to do is it's go get rid of all my stuff so that I can buy that land and then I get that treasure of course this is a good deal he's not sulking he's not moaning he's not bemoaning the fact you know what he tells us to sell our possessions and give to the poor he does Luke 12 you better read that he wants you to throw a feast he doesn't want you to invite friends and family that he does Luke 14 you better read it again he wants us to he wants us to do he wants us to give up our comforts and make sacrifice of our time and our money and our life he doesn't want us to be choked by the cares and the riches and the pleasures of life but to follow him to imitate him and you know what he does want us to give thought to people that are needy in the world he wants us to give thought to that he wants us to take time up to take the gospel to go to the nations including the prison right up the street or wherever we end up going he does want us to do that he definitely is calling us and you know what if we walk around sulking like we're some great losers because what because you're being adopted into the family of God and you get the treasure of all treasures and immeasurable riches of his grace and kindness forever and love poured on you like he pours on Christ and you get to be fellow heirs with him and what are you gonna do walk around sulking like well you know this this Christian thing man so much is demanded look at the guy who found that treasure burying in the field did was he grumbling all the way and none of that what a sacrifice look how much I have to give up now the guy was coming out of his shoes really all I have to do I mean all you're wanting of me is to turn my back on the things that I can't keep anyway that are only fleeting pleasures of that are gonna be gone in a moment I'm gonna die I'm gonna be out of this what seriously you're just asking me to do that I mean all you have to do is look at a guy like Zacchaeus and he's up in the tree and here's Jesus and he realized I got it all even though he had all these riches and everything this is this is Levi sitting in his tax day follow me seriously you want me I can't leave all those coins behind Zacchaeus says I'd give it all away what are you kidding me are you gonna are you gonna get all bent out of shape because Jesus comes along it says unless you forsake all that you have what what it's don't don't act like oh you know we're such great givers and we're at all don't you realize you're the one that's getting he's he's he's basically saying look you're stewards I've given all this to you anyways I'm the one to tell you what to do with it and you come follow me and you're gonna get so you're gonna get an eternal weight of glory you're gonna get such riches out of this whole this is this is a treasure listen this adoption thing is no trifle folks this is the greatest riches this is the apex this isn't just the apex of Scripture this is the apex of life this is the apex of what is worth living for this is this is it what I mean you know people well it's a Christian life is so hard and hard it's momentary light affliction and after that what are you gonna do you need to start comparing once once in a while we need to wake up and realize seriously we've been adopted into the family of God he's made us sons there is an inheritance at the end of this there is a treasure in heaven money bags he calls it really all of this airs inheritance riches glory the immeasurable riches of his grace and kindness I'm gonna be in his family he's bringing me into his house he's bringing me behind his throne he's giving me a crown on my head I'm gonna rule I'm gonna reign with Christ I'm gonna be a bride of Christ I mean what what are we gonna look around say what did I what do you have this what's the treasure the treasures of the God of this universe and his son I've got them I'm gonna see him face to face he calls it paradise what are you gonna do complain because it gets a little difficult here when there's paradise set before us don't you realize who you are don't you I mean if once the glory of adoption grabs hold of you then you don't walk around sulky and miserable and long-faced but you realize we are the privileged ones no one else in this world is as privileged as we are and all we have to do is walk through this shadow land for a few more rolling suns at most and then we're gonna be landed right there on Canaan's coast in paradise we're gonna behold him paradise forever I mean you get to see him brethren you know what he says extend yourself for the hungry and those in prison don't be passive don't

lay down this is our day to run and we're running towards the finish line and what's beyond that there's a prize there folks adoption like you're gonna have a father greet you on the other side who loves you with a love that is in a category that's just out in this world father please help us may this be a day of your power just to shed abroad into our minds and hearts the reality of the love of God that has been extended to us thank you I mean we don't even know I thank you it's just father help us help us to grasp more help our praise to resound at the reality of this help us to not forget not let go not not become so enamored by the distractions of this life that we forget who we are help us Lord help us in the joy and glory of the grace that's bestowed by our predestinated to be adopted into this very family and to be sons in Christ Jesus may may this resonate may this move us may this excite us I pray in Christ's name amen

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