



one by their own knowledge has the the slightest notion about what awaits us on that journey.

Jesus said “...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6, NKJV). The ancient world recognized that Jesus offered a new direction when they called the faith “the Way.” Saul of Tarsus sought letters so that he could seize

any who were of “**the Way, whether men or women**” (Acts 9:2). In Ephesus the Jews who opposed the truth “**spoke evil of the Way**” (Acts 19:9) and the Gentiles who were angry that people had stopped buying their idols caused “**a great commotion about the Way**” (Acts 19: 23). When Paul spoke to Felix, who had “**an accurate knowledge of the Way**” (Acts 24:22) he claimed to worship God “**according to the Way**” which the Jews called a sect (Acts 24:14). The faith in Jesus offered men and women in the first century (as it does to us today) direction, guidance and purpose in this life and in the life which is to come.

Are you looking to Jesus for direction through His revealed word? Are you following its course and clinging to its guidance? Or have you chosen proudly to try and find your own way alone? The grave is an uncharted wilderness filled with unimaginable dangers for those who venture into it alone. The Apostles proclaimed “**...there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved**” (Acts 4:12). Don’t let pride leave you without direction.



Faithful Sayings Issue 11.47 November 22, 2009

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

ISSUE

11.47

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

November 22
2009



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Curtis Carwile

The Figure of “Adoption” in the New Testament

By Kyle Pope

The figure of adoption is one of many figures used to describe our relationship with God. As with all figures there are limitations to its application. We see this from another common figure used to describe man’s relationship to God. Isaiah (Isaiah 64:8) and Paul (Romans 9:21) both use the figure of God as the potter and mankind as the clay. This beautiful figure illustrates how God as Creator has shaped us and formed our very existence. Yet, does that indicate that we are nothing more than inanimate clay? Obviously not. The Bible teaches that we are not a lifeless lump—we are souls made in the “**similitude of God**” (James 3:9).

What is illustrated by the figure of adoption? All of us are the “**offspring of God**” (Acts 17:29)—we are all children of the “**Father of spirits**” (Hebrews 12:9). However,

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sin changes that. Sin takes one who is a child of God in their creation and makes them a child of Satan. Jesus told the Jews who rejected Him, **“you are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do”** (John 8:44). The grace of God brought to us through Jesus Christ allows those who have forsaken their spiritual Father (like the prodigal



Olsen Park church of Christ

son)—a way to be adopted as sons of God, and thus **“heirs of God and joints heirs with Christ”** (Romans 8:17).

Who Chooses Who? Does the figure of adoption indicate that man’s relationship with God, like human adoption, involves a choice by the parent (i.e. God) alone? *What does Scripture say?* Certainly in human adoptions of babies the child has no choice in the matter. However, even in human adoption it isn’t always the case that the child has no choice. When older children are adopted the preferences of the children are often taken into consideration before the adoption is finalized.

Ephesians 1:5, uses this figure in declaring that God **“predestined us to adoption as sons BY JESUS CHRIST to Himself”** (Emphasis mine). We can notice in the context of this passage how often the emphasis is on what Jesus accomplished for us. God **“chose us IN HIM”** (Ephesian 1:4, emphasis mine); **“He made us accepted IN THE BELOVED”** (Ephesians 1:6, emphasis mine); **“IN HIM we have redemption”** (Ephesians 1:7, emphasis mine); which is something that God **“purposed in Himself”** (Ephesians 1:9, emphasis also mine). God chose that all in Christ will receive the adoption. This is God’s choice, but it is the election of a class of people—not individuals.

Where Do We Fit In? Does our choice have a bearing upon whether we are “in Christ” or not? Paul told the Galatians, **“you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ”** (Galatians 3:26-27). We choose to accept the message of the gospel—the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). This message produces faith (Romans 10:17) which leads us to

confess Him, repent of sins, and be baptized. Paul says, in doing this the one who has been baptized has **“put on Christ.”** Thanks be to God for this wonderful offer of adoption!



“The Way”

by Kyle Pope

I’m not sure why it is, but it seems many of us men out there have a powerful need to look as if we know where we are going. While women may be this way to some extent, I don’t know how many stories I have heard about men driving hours trying to find a spot and refusing to look at a map. When my wife and I first got married I did that very thing. On our honeymoon I drove for hours trying to find a road that (if only I had looked on a map) I would have seen did not exist! Whether it is pride, or a desire to lead, this characteristic causes many to refuse to look something to offer us direction.

This tendency may be of little consequence when we are talking about driving a car, but if this attitude is allowed to spill over into our spiritual life it can prove devastating. The Bible tells us that the message of Jesus Christ offers mankind the direction we need to travel through this life into the world beyond. No