

Title: Sons and Heirs
September 8, 2024

Scripture Focus: Galatians 3:13-14

Introduction: The Joy of an Unexpected Gift

- Reflect on the pure joy of receiving an unexpected gift.
- Comparison to receiving a promise that defines who you are and secures your future.

Key Points from the Sermon:

1. Paul's Message to the Galatians

- Galatians 3:13-14 contrasts life under the law and life under faith.
- Reminder of the unearned gift of being sons and heirs through faith in Christ.

2. Paul's Rebuke: The Danger of Turning Back to the Law

- "You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?"
- The folly of turning from a Spirit-led life back to the law.

3. The Freedom of Faith vs. The Curse of the Law

- Faith leads to receiving the Holy Spirit and becoming heirs of God.
- The law, though good, cannot save; it reveals our inability to meet God's standards.

4. Abraham: The Example of Justification by Faith

- Abraham was justified by faith before the law existed.
- Through Christ, the blessing of Abraham is extended to all nations.

5. Christ's Redemption from the Curse

- Jesus took on the curse of the law to set us free.
- The great exchange: our sin for His righteousness, our curse for His blessing.

6. Living as Heirs of God's Promises

- We are not just sons and daughters but heirs of God's promises.
- Inheritance isn't just future blessings but impacts our lives today.

Application: Living in the Freedom of Faith

1. **Embrace Your Identity in Christ:**
 - Understand that you are a son or daughter of God, an heir to His promises.
2. **Walk in the Spirit:**
 - Live out your new identity by walking in the Spirit, bearing the fruits of love, joy, peace, and more.
3. **Share the Message of Grace:**
 - Invite others into the family of God, where they too can experience the freedom and blessings of faith.
4. **Live Fully, Not Recklessly:**
 - Use the freedom in Christ to love, forgive, and serve others.

Conclusion: The Call to Show Love

- Like the father in the story of the prodigal son, we should show love instead of condemnation.
 - Challenge: Reflect on how you can show the same love and grace to others that you have received from God.
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Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your gift of grace and for the promise that we are not just sons and daughters, but heirs to your kingdom. Help us to live in the freedom and blessings that come from faith in Christ. Fill us with your Spirit that we may walk in your ways and be a witness to your love. Remind us daily of our identity in you, and empower us to live out that identity in a way that brings glory to your name. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

Key Takeaway: "We give Christ our sin, and He gives us His righteousness. We give Him our curse, and He gives us His blessing. We give Him our death, and He gives us His life."