

Adoption in Christ: What a Privilege!

Mr. Zachary Groff

According to the Bible, to be *saved* is to be justified, adopted, and sanctified. Justification is God's pardon and acceptance of us by the gracious gift of Christ's righteousness to us, and is received through faith alone. Sanctification is God's continuing work in our lives to make us more like Him, progressively destroying our sin and nurturing holy Christlikeness. Adoption is God's granting of family status and privileges to us as sons of God.

It is in by our adoption that we are people of *privilege*. In Ephesians 1:5, we are told that God has "predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself." To the Christian, God is King, Savior, Redeemer, Creator, and Judge. But He is also *Father* by adoption. When we meditate on our adoption in Christ, what specifics ought we to grasp?

First, we bear God's Name by our adoption. Jeremiah 14:9 contains the appeal to God, "Yet You are in our midst, O LORD, And we are called by Your name; Do not forsake us!" Israel's blessing of being called by God's Name is the church's blessing contained in Acts 15:17, which contains a prophetic reference to "all the Gentiles who are called by My name." It is a great privilege to bear the Name of God as a family name. Just as we give our children our names to identify them with us, so too does our heavenly Father place His Name upon us to mark us as His own.

Second, we exchange a spirit of slavery for "a spirit of adoption as sons" (Romans 8:15) in our relationship to God. Having come to realize our guilt of sin, we may initially approach God wondering if he will accept us at all. And yet, the unified witness of the Scriptures is that the Father desires to bring us into communion with Him through His Son. In our adoption, we approach God as a Father, and we call to Him in bold confidence as sons who have access to the very throne of grace from which He governs all things.

Third, the Psalmist tells us that "Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him" (Psalm 103:13). He regards with compassion those He has adopted.

Fourth, He protects us. Proverbs 14:26 describes God's children as having a refuge in Him, corresponding to the "strong confidence" that is theirs through faith.

Fifth, He provides for our needs. Jesus clearly taught His disciples to trust in God on the basis of his fatherly relationship to them. "Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things" (Matthew 6:32). He likewise instructed them to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11), trusting in His fatherly care.

Sixth, He disciplines us for our good and His glory. Hebrews 12:7 tells us that "God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?" The end-goal is stated in verse 10, "He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share in His holiness." The resounding ethical message of God's Word is that holiness is the gateway to God. Both the Old Testament sacrificial system and the final sacrifice of Jesus Christ make known God's requirement of holiness for His people. God has made us holy in Christ Jesus, so that we can enjoy communion with Him. His fatherly discipline is a great privilege of our adoption as justified and sanctified sons.

Seventh, He promises to never cast off His sons, but rather He has sealed us with the Holy Spirit "for the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30). Consider the great promise contained in Psalm 89:33, where God swears, "I will not break off my lovingkindness from him, Nor deal falsely in My faithfulness." God loves His sons with an everlasting love.

Eighth, the promises of God outlined in His Word are ours to inherit as adopted sons. Hebrews 6:12 tells us that Christians inherit God's promises "through faith and patience." Lamentations 3:31-32 makes this clear when it promises us that "The Lord will not reject forever, For if He causes grief, Then He will have compassion According to His abundant lovingkindness." Though we face trials in this life, through patience we will inherit that which God has promised to His sons.

Ninth and finally, we are what the Westminster Confession of Faith calls "heirs of everlasting salvation" (WCF 12). Peter describes our inheritance as one that is "imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4). Just as our older brother has passed through shadowlands of the grave to emerge into the light of everlasting day, pronouncing victory over death itself, so too shall we rise victorious at the time of God's own choosing. This is the great hope of God's adopted sons, secured for us in Christ Jesus, our Brother, Savior, Mediator, and Lord.

Announcements

- Prayer Meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
- To volunteer to help clean the church property, please speak with Mrs. Pipa or contact the church at info@antiochpca.com.

Vision

Our vision is to see the historic Antioch Presbyterian Church revitalized as a worshipping community to be a blessing to every man, woman, and child in the growing residential hub west of Woodruff and south of Reidville, to the glory of God.

Mission

Our mission as a parish church at the crossroads of Greenville and Spartanburg Counties is the gathering and perfecting of God's people through biblical worship, evangelism, and pastoral care.

Areas of Ministry Focus

Expository Preaching

Biblical Worship

Parish Evangelism

Pastoral Care

Discipleship

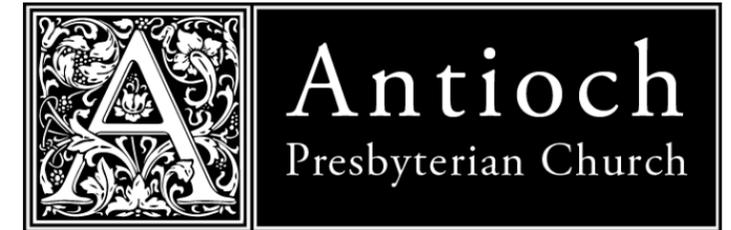
Leadership & Accountability

As a *mission work*, Antioch Presbyterian Church (PCA) is governed and overseen by a *provisional session* of elders serving as a *commission* of Calvary Presbytery. The six men appointed to the *provisional session* are active elders within the bounds of Calvary Presbytery, and they have graciously agreed to serve "above-and-beyond" to encourage the revitalization of Antioch. They include:

Dr. Chipley Bennett, Ph.D. – Ruling Elder, Providence Presbyterian Church
Dr. E. Todd Buchner, D.Min. – Pastor, Reidville Presbyterian Church
Mr. Richard Hollifield – Ruling Elder, Roebuck Presbyterian Church
Mr. William Johnson – Ruling Elder, Woodruff Road Presbyterian Church
Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr., Ph.D., D.D. – Professor of Systematic & Applied Theology, President Emeritus, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary;
Organizing Pastor & Moderator of Session, Antioch Presbyterian Church
Pastor Richard Thomas – Senior Pastor, Mount Calvary Presbyterian Church;
Clerk of Session, Antioch Presbyterian Church

Church Staff

Mr. Zachary Groff – Ministerial Assistant
Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr. – Organizing Pastor & Moderator of Session



The Lord's Day
October 25, 2020

"The Perils of Practical Atheism"
Jeremiah 5:10-19
Mr. Zachary Groff

Worship – Sunday, 4:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

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The Lord's Day

October 25, 2020

"The Perils of Practical Atheism"

Jeremiah 5:10-19

Meditation

Isaiah 55:11

So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

*Call to Worship

*Congregational Commitment

Minister: Congregation, in whom is your confidence?

Congregation: Our help is in the Name of the Lord, Who made the heavens and earth.

*Salutation

*Hymn of Adoration

No. 118B

The Glorious Gates of Righteousness
(stanzas 1-4)
ZERAH

*Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

*Revelation of God's Will

Colossians 3:1-17

*Confession of Sin & Supplication for Grace

Almighty God, I am a sinner. Your Word and my heart confirm that to me. I have done things You have forbidden and left undone things You have commanded. I have not loved You with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. I have not loved my neighbor as myself. As judge of the whole earth You would be just to condemn me. Yet in Your love You sent Christ to bear the guilt of my sin and suffer my punishment. To Him now I flee; forgive me for His sake, and by Your Spirit help me to live in the light of His sacrifice, a life worthy of Your Name. Judge me not according to my work but according to Your mercy in Jesus Christ. For in Him I hope and in Him I come before You this day. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Proverbs 28:13

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

Offering

*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Supplication

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation

No. 244

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
EIN' FESTE BURG

*New Testament Reading

Romans 11:1-24

*Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 5:1-19

Congregational Response

Leader: Be doers of the Word,

Congregation: And not hearers only, deceiving yourselves!

*Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

"The Perils of Practical Atheism"

Jeremiah 5:10-19

Prayer of Application

*Hymn of Response

No. 118B

The Glorious Gates of Righteousness
(stanzas 5-8)
ZERAH

*Benediction

*Doxology

No. 75

We Give You Thanks, O God
(stanza 1)
CARLISLE

*Silent Prayer

Main Proposition

By the Word of His power, God Himself shall prune from His church the dead growth of practical atheism.

Outline

- I. The Problem of Practical Atheism (vv. 10-13)
- II. God's Power over Practical Atheism (vv. 14-17)
- III. God's Proclamation against Practical Atheism (vv. 18-19)

*Congregation standing, unless physically hindered