

SONS Sons of God

My topic is about

Once we have been saved by God's grace we are sons of God.

1st we'll see how we become sons of God. Then we'll see our benefits.

God made a commitment to Abraham and his Seed:

Gal 3:16-26 **_Gal 3:16** Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

When God gave the law through Moses (430 years later) it did not make the promise null or void:

_Gal 3:17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

Eternal life wasn't guaranteed by the law but by God's promise to Abraham:

_Gal 3:18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

God gave the law because of sin to show what sin is:

_Gal 3:19-a Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions,

How long was the law in effect? Until Christ came:

_Gal 3:19-b till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

Hold your place in Gal 3 we'll come right back.

Paul clearly shows the law was ended by Christ:

Rom 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

John also testified:

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses,
but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

A mediator goes between and brings 2 people together:

Gal 3:20-26 Gal 3:20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

The law could never make any person right before God:

Gal 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

People were under the law until Christ came and they believed in Him:

Gal 3:22-25 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given **to them that believe**.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Here it is how we GET TO BE the SONS of God:

Gal 3:26 For ye are all the children of God **by faith in Christ Jesus**.

Believing in Christ faith was what made people become sons of God:

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the **sons of God**, even **to them that believe** on his name:

Jesus prayed for 'them that believe' the sons of God to be one:

John 17:20,21 Neither pray I for these alone (**Jesus' disciples**), but for **them also which shall believe** on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

It's 'them that believe' that get God's righteousness imputed to them:

Rom 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and **upon all them that believe**: for there is no difference:

It's 'them that believe' that are Abraham's children:

Rom 4:3,11 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: **that he might be the father of all them that believe**, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

'Them that believe' -- are them that are saved -- them are the sons of God:

1 Cor 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save **them that believe**.

Peter also wrote to 'them that believe':

1 Pet 2:7 Unto **you therefore which believe** he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

Next, we'll look at some of the **BENEFITS** of being **SONS** of God.

Under the 'New Testament grace' brought by Jesus Christ (in

John 1:17 that we already read) God dwells **IN** 'them that believe':

John 6:56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, **dwellleth in me, and I in him**.

God's 'Old Testament' house was built by King Solomon.

Stephen (from Acts 6:8) testified in:

Acts 7:47,48 But Solomon built him an house.

48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

Paul also told the men of Athens at Mars' Hill about God's residence:

Acts 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

In accordance with the prophetic scriptures Paul explained that

God's sons are His temple:

2 Cor 6:16-18 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for **ye are the temple of the living God;**

as God hath said,

I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and **ye shall be my sons** and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Christ indwells believers that's why they say Jesus lives in their heart:

Eph 3:17 That **Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;** that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

The Holy Spirit dwells in the sons of God:

2 Tim 1:14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

Believers are God's temple God's sons are His building:

1 Cor 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, **ye are God's building.**

We Gentiles have joined Israel in that, now we are of God's house whose foundation is Christ:

Eph 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and **of the household of God;**
20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all **the building** fitly framed together
groweth unto **an holy temple** in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are **builded** together **for an habitation of God**
through the Spirit.

Peter explained the same principals when he wrote his 1st epistle

both • of believers being God's house

and • of Jesus being the chief corner stone:

1 Pet 2:5,6 Ye also, as lively stones, **are built up a spiritual house**,
an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by
Jesus Christ.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a
chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not
be confounded.

As we read in John's gospel (John 6:56) where Jesus told His disciples
.... that God dwells in believers John's epistle also records that promise:

1 John 4:12,15 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one an-
other, **God dwelleth in us**, and his love is perfected in us.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, **God dwelleth in
him**, and he in God.

Now let's see another BENEFIT we have as SONS of God:

Our INHERITANCE.

God spoke of Israel as His son, and referred to Israel as a child:

Hos 11:1 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son
out of Egypt.

Israel was under the law as long as they were a child:

Gal 4:1-7 **Gal 4:1,2** Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child,
differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

In the same manner ALL God's children were released from the law

.... by Christ and were positioned as **sons of God**:

Gal 4:3-7 Even so **we**, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

5 **To redeem them that were under the law,**

that **we might receive the adoption of sons.**

6 And because **ye are sons**, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba (**a term of warm affection, like 'Poppa'**), Father.

7 Wherefore **thou art** no more a servant, but **a son**;

and if a son, then **an heir of God** through Christ.

In Paul's initial call from Jesus on the Damascus Road God revealed the Gentiles' **inheritance** among the saints who already believed in Jesus:

Acts 26:17,18 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and **inheritance** among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

- Paul
- testified the gospel of the grace of God
 - preached the kingdom of God
 - assured them of their **inheritance**

among all the other sanctified saints:

Acts 20:24,25,32 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the **grace of God**.

25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching **the kingdom of God**, shall see my face no more.

32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and **to give you an inheritance** among all them which are sanctified.

Paul made it clear that believers are cleansed from sin and will receive

God's kingdom for their inheritance:

1 Cor 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not **inherit the kingdom of God**? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall **inherit the kingdom of God**.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but **ye are sanctified**, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Our **inheritance** is a glorified body at the resurrection fit for God's kingdom when it comes. It will not be a body like we have now:

1 Cor 15:50-54 Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

God's Spirit dwells in us as a deposit until we get our inheritance:

Eph 1:13,14 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our **inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Believers **belong** to Christ. His Spirit **dwells** in His saints:

Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that **the Spirit of God dwell in you**. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Stay in Rom 8, as we again see **benefits** in store for us **sons of God**:

We **sons of God** are led by God's Spirit:

Rom 8:14-25 **Rom 8:14** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the **sons of God**.

We **sons of God** are not under the bondage of the law but, rather, we have the Spirit of God **in** us. God adopted us as His children:

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have **received the Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

God's Spirit **in** us **assures** us that we are God's children:

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the **children of God**:

Again, since we are God's sons we are also **God's heirs**. We endure **suffering** with Christ and we will be **glorified** in His kingdom:

Rom 8:17-25 And if children, then **heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ**; if so be that we **suffer** with him, that we may be also **glorified** together.

18 For I reckon that the **sufferings** of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory** which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature **waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God**.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the **children of God**.

22 For we know that the whole creation **groaneth** and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body**.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

We surely **groan** while we're in this flesh waiting on our glorified body that we'll get when Christ returns:

2 Cor 5:2 For in this we **groan**, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is **from heaven**:

In this next passage Paul basically repeats the promise

that **God's sons** (His saints) will be **glorified in His kingdom**

that they have **suffered** for when Christ returns:

2 Thess 1:4-10 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be **counted worthy** of **the kingdom of God**, for which ye also **suffer**:

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, **when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven** with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 **When he shall come to be glorified in his saints**, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony **(Paul's witness)** among you was believed) **in that day**. **(the day that He comes His day that is, the day of Christ)**

Paul also encouraged **God's sons** to shine as lights in a dark world so that they could rejoice in the day of Christ:

Phil 2:14-16 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, **the sons of God**, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom **ye shine as lights in the world**;

16 **Holding forth the word of life**; that I may rejoice **in the day of Christ**, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

God's sons are fit to share in the saints' **inheritance** in Christ's **kingdom**:

Col 1:12,13 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath **made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light**:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath **translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son**:

God wants us to know what our inheritance is as His sons:

Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; **that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,**

The inheritance of the saints is glorious, eternal life in God's kingdom:

1 Thess 2:11,12 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

12 That ye would walk **worthy** of God, who hath **called you unto his kingdom and glory**.

God's sons (His children) will have changed, glorified bodies

bodies that will never die again in His kingdom:

Luke 20:34-36 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage:

35 But they which shall be **accounted worthy** to obtain **that world, and the resurrection from the dead**, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

36 **Neither can they die any more**: for they are equal unto the angels; and are **the children of God**, being **the children of the resurrection**.

Sons of God! What a privilege!

God's sons will be made like God's Son:

1 John 3:1,2 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the **sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the **sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is**.

When Jesus comes back from heaven our change will come!

Phil 3:20,21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

What kind of **resurrection body** did Jesus have? **Flesh and bones:**

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

That's how Adam described **his wife, Eve and marriage:**

Gen 2:23,24 And Adam said, This is now

- bone of my bones,
- and flesh of my flesh:

she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall **cleave** unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

That's how Paul described the union between Christ and the church:

Eph 5:30-32 For we are members of his body,

- of his flesh,
- and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be **joined** unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Our **flesh and blood subject to death cannot go into God's kingdom,**
as we already read in 1 Cor 15:50. We have to lose ours and take His:

John 6:54 Whoso eateth **my flesh**, and drinketh **my blood**, hath **eternal life**; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Our **inheritance as sons of God is eternal life:**

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made **heirs** according to the hope of eternal life.

We will realize our **hope** that we're waiting for when Christ appears:

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the **glorious appearing** of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

When Christ appearsHe will be glorified in us and we in Him:

Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at **that day**: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love **his appearing**.

When Christ appears, He will bring in His kingdom and He will judge:

2 Tim 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at **his appearing and his kingdom**;

Jesus taught His disciples to pray for God's kingdom to come to earth:

Matt 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

When God's everlasting kingdom comes

God's sons will receive their **full inheritance**:

Rev 21:3,4,7 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and **he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.**

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be **no more death**, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

7 **He that overcometh shall inherit all things;**
and I will be his God, and **he shall be my son.**

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!" Preached 10-10-09