

October 13, 2019

## **"...so that you may know him better..."**

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ..."*



*"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe."*  
Ephesians 1:3-23

Think for a moment about who you are in relation to your family; your parents and grand parents and great grand parents. You are, by birth, part of a long line of ancestors and whether you want to be or not. You belong to a specific blood line.

I am an O'Rourke which is, of course, an Irish name. It translates to mean 'son of Roark' and he was probably the founder of our clan. I am, by merit of my birth, a son of that blood line, warts and all. That bloodline is a part of who I am.

But an entirely different aspect of my identity is as a child of God. I am a member of the family of God. He is my Father and Jesus is my older brother. I was, however, not born into the family of God. Instead I am an adopted son of that family. God made it possible for me to be adopted into his holy and eternal family, because he chose me to be his child.

He did this by making it possible to live on this side of Jesus historically. The believers who came before Jesus had entirely different relationships with the God of heaven than we do now. During the time of the Patriarchs their relationship with God was conducted through the oldest male member of the clan. God spoke to that Patriarch directly and that Patriarch spoke to his family. Those Patriarchs carefully traced their lineage, their blood line, back to Adam because they were descended from him.

During the days of Moses the people of Israel traced their lineage back to Abraham, the father of the faithful. They did not, in fact would not have dared to claim to be children of God. They called themselves the children of Abraham.

But now, during this last age, God has made it possible for us to be a part of his family, to be his children. He has made it possible for us to be adopted. In doing this he has found it necessary to make us holy and blameless, which of course we are not.

We are by nature children of wrath because we are sinners condemned to eternal death as a consequence of our sin. Because of his great love for us God has presented his one and only Son, his heir, as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, exchanging his death for ours and satisfying the requirement of his "**law of sin and death**".

Because we are made holy and blameless through the death of Jesus on the cross, we are eligible to become the adopted children of God. Do you ever really think about what that means. I am a part of the family of God. I am one of his kids, not by my blood, but by the blood of Jesus Christ.

What does it mean to be a child of God? Think about that for a minute. Over the last few weeks we have talked about the close, personal, intimate relationship that God longs to have with us through his Son. He is reaching out to gather us to himself. He longs to take us in his arms; to make us his children. Sadly, we chose to hold him off refusing to be intimate with the God of heaven.

In writing to the believers in Ephesus the Apostle Paul tells them that he constantly prays for them to "...**know him** (God) **better**." Paul wants us to fully understand what it means to us to be a child of God. He wants us to fully understand how wonderfully blessed we are to be a part of the family of God. This week take some time to really think about what your life can be like as a child of God; as a member of his family.

