

## SEMESTER 1 2020

THEME | What does the bible say about being saved?



WEEK 4: 24th March

### ADOPTION:

#### ***Pauline Images – ‘how does salvation make us part of God’s family?’***

##### **Key Verses:**

Gen. 15:3, Gen. 16:2 & Gen. 30:3, Gen. 50:23

John 8:33-47

Romans 8:12-24

Gal. 3:26-4:7

##### **References**

(not to be confused with ‘adoptionism’ – heresy that teaches Jesus was ‘adopted’ as the son of God at some point (generally baptism), rather than that Jesus was the Son of God by nature from the moment of his conception)

OT – relatively rare with no technical term and no specific laws; alternatives? Polygamy and levirate marriage.

ANE culture sheds light; ‘adoption was a legal act by which a person was brought into a new family relationship, with the full privileges and responsibilities of one who participated in that relationship by birth’

Theological aspects – ‘The nation Israel was regarded as God’s son, especially as his first-born and the Davidic king as similarly privileged, though his humanity and accountability were equally emphasized. It was this divine choice that lay behind Paul’s statement that sonship belonged to the Israelites (Rom 9:4)’

NT – Roman law: ‘chief aim to continue the adoptive parent’s line’

[Adrogation – (Rome) a person legally capable of choosing for himself was admitted into the relation of son to another by a vote of the people]

Jewish custom: ‘conferred the benefits of the family on the adoptee’

*Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Part 1. 1980. (p. 17)*

[Paul] speaks of 'Christians as having been 'adopted' into the family of God' (Rom. 8:15, 23; Gal. 4:5)

'It is widely thought that Paul is here drawing on a legal practice, common in Greco-Roman culture (yet, interestingly, not recognized within traditional Jewish law). [cites F. F. Bruce] Paul is making the point that adoption makes 'the point that believers share the same inheritance rights as Jesus Christ and will hence receive the glory which Christ achieved (although only after first sharing in his sufferings).'

*McGrath, Alister. E. (2011). Christian Theology: An Introduction. (5<sup>th</sup> ed), (p. 338)*

Salvation is not just justification for...'not only are we released from liability to punishment, but we are restored to a position of favour with God. This transfer from a status of alienation and hostility to one of acceptance and favour is termed adoption'

Adoption involves a change of both status and condition. In the formal sense, adoption is a declarative matter, an alteration of our legal status. We become God's children'. (p. 310)

*{Practically declared through being named at baptism into the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 28:19 and 20 c/f Acts 2:36-38} note from Keith...*

'We are restored to the relationship with God which humans once had but lost. We are by nature and creation children of God...(adoption) restores us to the relationship with him for which we were originally intended'

*Erickson, Millard J. (1992). Introducing Christian Doctrine. Hustad, L. Arnold. (ed). pp. 310-312)*

## Notes