

Reading:

Romans 8.

Introduction

- A significant affirmation.
- What has taken place?
 - A process (see the “order of salvation”, overleaf)
 - A result – ADOPTION!
- Being adopted by God means:

1. I BELONG to God.

- To begin with – we don’t belong to Him. Eph 2:12.
- But then He adopts us:
 - He chooses us;
 - He overcomes every obstacle;
- ... and then we belong to Him!

2. I am an HEIR of God.

- Rom 8:16.
- God’s adoption is not half-hearted!

3. I am LOVED by God.

- For this relationship to be real, it must be based on love.
- But... How do I KNOW? Eph 8:15-16 – the dual witness.
- Do you know that you love God, and are loved by Him?

Loved with everlasting love

Loved with everlasting love,
Led by grace that love to know,
Spirit, breathing from above,
You have taught me it is so.
O this full and perfect peace!
Joy and wonder all divine;
In a love which cannot cease,
I am His, and He is mine.

Heaven above is softer blue,
Earth around is sweeter green;
Something lives in ev'ry hue,
Christless eyes have never seen:
Birds with gladder songs o'erflow,
Flowers with deeper beauties shine;
Since I know, as now I know,
I am His and He is mine.

His forever, only His,
Who the Lord and me shall part?
Ah, with what a rest of bliss
Christ can fill the loving heart!
Heaven and earth may fade and flee,
First-born light in gloom decline;
But while God and I shall be,
I am His and He is mine.

G.W. Robinson (1838-1877)

The order of salvation (the things that happen, in the order they happen):

- Foreknowledge (*God's setting His love on His chosen ones*)
- Predestination (*God's predestining them to believe*)
- Regeneration (*The Holy Spirit's renewal of them, so that they heed the gospel*)
- Conversion – consisting of:
 - Repentance for sin
 - Faith in Christ
- Justification (*God's declaring us free from guilt, since Christ has atoned for us*)
- Adoption (*God's welcoming of us as sons and daughters*)
- Sanctification (*God's ongoing work in us, progressively making us more holy*)