

- I. The great news of Easter
  - A. Where we began... (v8)
    - 1. Don't know God
    - 2. Enslaved to those who by nature are not gods
      - a. Satan is prince of this world
      - b. Sin is the air we are born into
      - c. We are without defense against the tyrants of this world and our very own nature
  - B. What Jesus has done... (v4-7)
    - 1. At the perfect moment (v4-5a)
      - a. Christ came, sent from God
      - b. Entered into the atmosphere of sin, under the Law
      - c. So that He could bring true freedom to anyone who responded
        - Redeem: to set free by paying a price
    - 2. God's plan, through Jesus from the very beginning, was to adopt us into his family.  
(v5b)
      - a. Adoption is costly (sacrifice of God's Son)
      - b. Adoption changes the legal status
      - c. Adoption brings the rights of being an heir
    - 3. We are adopted with the purpose of becoming sons and daughters with adult standing in God's family.

**\*\*Therefore, you are no longer a slave to fear/pride/anger but a son or daughter with full standing in God's family.**

- A son has the same nature as the father; a servant/slave does not.
- A son has a father; a servant/slave has a master.
- A son obeys out of love; a servant/slave obeys out of fear.
- A son enters in and enjoys the family; a servant/slave serves from the outside.
- A son has a future; a servant/slave does not.

- C. Our great struggle... (v9)
  - 1. You have come to know God and be known by God!
    - a. Son and daughters
    - b. Received the now and secured the not yet inheritance
  - 2. How could you return to living as a slave?
    - a. Jesus has brought us freedom.

b. We have to make a choice.

1) We can live burdened by our sin.

2) Or we can live boldly, defined and defended by Jesus Christ!

\*\*In Christ, we have the opportunity to live free from the weight of our own appetites, the expectations of others, and the shame that plagues us from our past. Living free in Christ means that we are driven by Christ's passion, we are defined by Christ alone, and experience forgiveness and freedoms from the entirety of our past.

## II. Slave or Son?

A. The message of Easter is that you no longer have to be tied to, bullied by, defenseless against, or enslaved to the sin that once ran rampant in your life.

1. If you are here and have not experienced the forgiveness Christ offers...

2. If you are here and have returned to your old masters...

3. If you are here and are struggling, then be encouraged...

B. I want to close with what I imagine God the Father said to his Son, Jesus, as he sent him to walk and live among us to bring about forgiveness and salvation...

"Prepare for the invasion. The artillery of the enemy will be heavy. In fact, before you get very far on the beach, you will be killed. But I will raise you from the dead and the beachhead you established will spread until it invades every tongue and tribe and nation. And I will free town after town from slavery to sin and slavery to the law. And we will draw into our movement all those who trust in you, my Son, and we will send your Spirit to empower them and bring them to glory. And they will be my sons and daughters and heirs of everything I have. Satan will be vanquished, all unbelievers will be banished to outer darkness, and our glory will fill the earth like the waters cover the sea."