

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

Introduction

First things first, I want to thank you for at least opening up this document. I would ask one thing as you prayerfully read this. I would ask that you put aside all your preconceived notions and denominational conceptions about God and the Bible and what He is doing today. As you read it, consider the number of verses and passages referenced all throughout the Bible and see the tapestry of how it all hangs together.

I don't pretend I have all this working in me. Not even close. I think of it is a process that I will continue to pursue the rest of my life. I want to make sure and not repeat Solomon's mistake, treating it as just information.

Before you begin, a bit of a warning. There will probably be some things, maybe many things, that you have never heard about or read in your Bible. Some of these you may not be sure about or you may disagree with, even vehemently. I would encourage you to document these and then find the verses that support your beliefs and share them back.

There were struggles pulling this together, mainly:

- The order of the sections: I use terms that you probably aren't familiar with but are explained later, which results in a clunky experience.
- The depth of each section: How much content is too much or not enough detail?
- Additional sections: There are more sections I would like to add but I don't want people to look at the page count and pass on reading it.

Section 1: The Foundational Issues

The King James Issue

A lot of the modern and liberal scholars and churches dismiss the King James Version, giving preference to some of the newer translations. Our church believes this is a huge mistake. Keep in mind a couple things:

- The King James Bible is the only Bible without a copyright. Copyrights are for making money.
- It was written before German rationalism, French atheism, and English deism. All the modern objections to the Word of God came up AFTER the KJV was written and therefore could not influence its translation.
- The newer translations change words and they use newer terms where you lose meaning of a word or passage compared to the way the King James translators intended.

I could dig and provide more but this position is well-documented by serious Bible scholars on YouTube.

Why God gave us the Bible

You can ask about any preacher or Bible scholar today 'why did God give us the Bible?' and they'll come up with some answer. He wanted to show His Love through His word or He wanted to show the story of the Cross or He wanted to show you His story or history. But the real reason why God gave us the Bible was very purposeful. He gave us the Bible because the Bible is a training manual for us now and in eternity. It is the greatest self-help book ever written. It's a training manual for Israel on how they should

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

operate during Daniel's 70th week and out in the kingdom. It's a training manual for 'the body of Christ' (1 Corinthians 12:27) on how:

- We should live our lives on this earth (and it is more than likely not what you have been taught)
 - The 2 types of suffering and how to deal with them
 - The 4 decision making skills to begin to think like God thinks and make decisions in a godly manner as an adopted son or daughter
 - NOTE: A lot of times Paul saves ink. As an example, he will say 'sons'. He means 'sons and daughters'. Similar to this, 'Jesus' death' a lot of times should read 'Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection'. When you see 'sons', think 'sons and daughters'.
- We should operate in the heavenly places out in the creature (Romans 8:19-23) {where we will fill our eternal vocation (Ephesians 4:1) and help God fulfill His eternal plan and purpose (Ephesians 1:10)}

The sad thing is, you have all these TV ministries and big church Pastors writing books on how to live the Christian life. As well-meaning as they may be, there are a couple issues:

- These books undoubtedly mix the Bible and godly wisdom with the 'wisdom of men' (1 Corinthians 2:5) and the 'wisdom of this world' (1 Corinthians 3:19). This is Satan producing a counterfeit doctrine that sort of works but doesn't work like the real thing does. Only the word of God fits perfectly in your human spirit.
- If any of these books were really 'the key to Christian living', there wouldn't be a reason to write the next one.

The sad part is, God has already written the greatest self-help book in the world and Satan has so corrupted the church with his 'works of darkness' (Romans 13:12) that very few Pastors see it and more importantly, know how to teach it.

Once you know this and see this, you look at the Bible from a totally different perspective. You don't study the Bible because a Christian you should, you study the Bible to understand how to live for God today and to prepare for your eternal vocation (Ephesians 4:1). The old saying that BIBLE stands for 'Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth' really is true!

Rightly Dividing the Word

Paul writes to Timothy in his second letter to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). We have to understand this is a pastoral epistle. This is Pastor to Pastor, and it's something that a Pastor should know when he teaches his congregation or assembly. Right division is really critical to understanding and explaining all the seemingly contradictory verses in your Bible. Once you understand right division, all the supposedly contradictory verses can be explained. To show this, review this table of verses:

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

Blue Program				Red Program			
ID	Passage	Verse		ID	Passage	Verse	
IP.01	Exodus 20:10	10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:		MP.01	Colossians 2:16	16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:	
IP.02	Leviticus 11:7	7 And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.		MP.02	1 Timothy 4:4-5	4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: 5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.	
IP.03	Mark 10:45	45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.		MP.03	1 Timothy 2:5	6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.	
IP.04	Matthew 6: 25; 31-32	25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.		MP.04	1 Thessalonians 4:11-12	11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; 12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.	
IP.05	Matthew 10:7-10	7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. 9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, 10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.		MP.05	2 Thessalonians 3:8-10	8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: 9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an example unto you to follow us, 10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.	
IP.06	Matthew 28:19	19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:		MP.06	1 Corinthians 1:17	17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.	
IP.07a	Matthew 21:11	11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:		MP.07	Ephesians 4:4-5	4 There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,	
IP.07b	Luke 3:16	16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:					
IP.08	Matthew 23:1-2	1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, 2 Saying The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:		MP.08	Romans 6:14-15	14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.	
IP.09	Exodus 34:10	10 And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all the people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the Lord: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee.		MP.09	1 Timothy 5:23	23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.	
IP.10	Exodus 21:23-25	23 And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, 24 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.		MP.10	2 Timothy 4:20	20 Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.	
IP.11	Leviticus 24:20	20 Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again.		MP.11	Romans 12:17, 19	17 Reckon therefore to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.	
IP.12	1 John 1:9	9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.		MP.12	Romans 3:26	26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.	

...now look at where they are located. Notice the set of verses in RED are all from Paul's letters.

This is not exhaustive but something I have been working on. If you don't rightly divide the word of Truth, you can't defend the contradictions of the Bible and you don't know which verse is for you.

Two Programs

There are two great programs that you can see in your Bible. One God has with the nation of Israel and one God has with the body of Christ. For whatever reason God has chosen to only run one program at a time. There are many differences in these programs as well as similarities. Understanding these similarities and differences will better help you understand your Bible and God's eternal plan and purpose. Let's talk about some of the major differences:

- One is about a nation and the kingdom. One is about a body and the creature (Romans 8:19-23).
- Israel was under a law contract. We as members of the body of Christ, are not under the law but we are under grace (Romans 6:14-15). Law and grace are very different.

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

- God dealt with Israel in the outward, physical circumstances of their lives. You can see it in the law. The law was a performance contract, a performance system. You do good, you get blessings. You do bad, you get curses. (Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28). It was simple as that.
- Today, God does not deal with the body of Christ in the outward, physical circumstances. With grace, you do nothing to get God's goodness but believe. He gives it to you by his Jehovahness and grace. It is available to everyone that believes. Also, He deals with the members of the body of Christ in their inner man, not in our outward circumstances. We believe that God is not healing our diseases. He is not getting us jobs. He is not making us wealthy. God is doing something much greater, something much more important to Him than working in the outward circumstances of our life. He's working on our inner man, and by doing so He is allowing us to put the power of His grace on display to all creation, including the angels. They had never seen the original design of how man was supposed to operate until Paul came along. It's not like He wants you to have problems because He does love you. But He's doing something far greater than just fixing your bank account or fixing your car or fixing your back. He is putting His Power on display through us. It's an aspect of Grace that is probably the greatest power He possesses. It's a facet of Grace where we can have Christ working in us, we can have Christ formed in us, we can have Christ living His Life in us. When we do this, we are delivered from effects of the outward circumstances or sufferings of life (not from the physical circumstances or sufferings themselves). This is much more spectacular to angels than God healing your infirmity. They saw Him create the heavens and the earth, healing your flu or getting you a job is ho-hum to them. Living your life this way gives God glory in the present, and you glory (think reward) in eternity.
- Israel was supposed to look for signs ('thou art shall see the work of the Lord-Exodus 34:10). We don't look for signs. 'For we walk by faith, not by sight'-2 Corinthians 5:7.
- On the Biblical Timeline:
 - Israel's Program: Genesis 12 – Acts
 - Israel's Stumbling: The Cross
 - Israel's Extension of Mercy: Acts 1-7 (Luke 13:6-9)
 - Israel's Fall: Acts 7:54-56
 - Israel's Diminishing (of their Program): Acts 8 – Acts 28
 - Body of Christ: Romans – Philemon (Dispensation of Gentile Grace in effect today)
 - Resumption of Israel's Program (after 'the blessed hope' (Titus 2:13)):
 - The Hebrew epistles (Hebrews – Revelation)
 - Doctrine for the believing remnant out in Daniel's 70th week and beyond
 - This is God's genius – already having this doctrine ready to go for the Lord's day of Wrath
- God will use both programs to fulfill His eternal plan and purpose. One of the fundamental things that needs to be done is reconciling the heavens and reconciling the earth back to Himself (Ephesians 1:10), taking both of them back from Satan.
 - God will use His program with the nation of Israel to reconcile the world back to Himself and bring in the Kingdom.
 - God will use the body of Christ to reconcile the heavenly places back to Himself and restore the creature to fullness of function.
 - God will bring everything in heaven and everything in earth together (1 Corinthians 15:28; Ephesians 1:10; Ephesians 3:10-11) so the creature is not just a physical body,

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

but it is responding as part of creation. The Father, who will set up His residence on this earth, with His Spirit, are going to be communicating directly with the body (of Christ out in the creature). If you believe in replacement theology or systematic theology and think that the body of Christ or believers today are somehow spiritual Israel or replacement Israel, you have robbed God of His ability to reconcile the heavenly places back to Himself. There's no way for Him to get it back.

- God began to treat Israel as children when they rejected His Jehovahness and grace at Sinai and were given the law. Israel thought they could produce their own righteousness by trying to follow the law. They were told to keep the Sabbath, don't eat catfish, go to Jerusalem for the feasts, don't wear mixed fabric clothing, etc. God wants to treat us as (adopted) sons of God. We don't have limited decision making like the children of Israel. We have liberty in Christ (Galatians 5:1). We have the ability to make our own decisions. We've been given liberty in decision-making, and we need 'to come unto the knowledge of the truth' (1 Timothy 2:4), and be edified into godliness, using the forms of doctrine laid out in Paul's epistles.
 - What is interesting is that as you grow in grace and develop the 4 decision making skills and as you are conformed in the image of His Son, you gladly give up your liberty in some situations to operate out of godly charity.
- Israel did not deal with God personally, but they dealt with God through the priesthood. God dealt with them as a nation, not as individuals. We deal with God the Father directly. The relationship is much more personal.
- We don't have religion and all its trappings, we have relationship, a much more intimate relationship than even most churches teach.
- One is on display to men. One is on display (primarily) to angels.

Law versus Grace

Many things to say here, but let's just start with some of the basics. Israel was under law. We are under grace. When God gives us things, it's by his Jehovah-ness and grace. If He doesn't give something to everyone, it's not grace. That's how you know whether it's for today or not. If everybody gets it, it's through His grace. All the 'mercies of God' (Romans 12:1) are great examples of this. If only a subset of people are getting it, it's not grace (God doing it) and probably a counterfeit. Below is a table from my notes on Law vs. Grace:

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

LAW	GRACE
External	Internal: Operates in your inner man
Proper response: Works	Proper response: Faith (only one)
System that gave sin dominion (never meant to keep sin at a minimum, given to make your sin big)	System that renders sin's dominion impossible
Can't do anything to earn your righteousness	
Sin is empowered (when the law is given)	Sin is impotent (like a fish out of water)
About functional death	About functional life (how I live unto God everyday)
Caused the offence to abound and see how sinful you really are	Causes fruit unto holiness to abound
God instituted the law, bringing sin's dominion	God instituted grace, ending sin's dominion
Puts you under the dominion of sin	Makes the dominion of sin impossible (The flesh sees this just the opposite)
Justification: Does not produce it; Send you to the lake of fire if you try and keep it - If anybody ever got justified under the law, He would have never needed to have come. The law was given to show we couldn't get it on our own. To show Israel they were never going to produce their own justification and their own sanctification.	Justification: Perfect JUEL when we got saved
Sanctification: Does not produce it; Kill your sanctified/functional life if you try and keep it	Sanctification: Perfect SUEL when we got saved
Doesn't keep you from sinning	Restraints you from sinning
Doesn't cause you to do good	Promotes righteousness
Law is not really about doing good, but not doing evil. Things like 'thou shalt not kill' pop in your mind. THOU SHALT NOT. It didn't make you stop sinning, it just told you what not to do because you do it and it shows you how guilty you are.	Grace doesn't major on what NOT to do, grace majors on what to do. It wants help people/edify/build up.

Instead of giving us a law or rule, God is producing the life of His Son in us so that righteousness is not by the law, but by grace.

Your lens when reading through your Bible

One thing I wanted to share that I think really helps understanding your Bible is seeing the conflict between God and the adversary. I don't have a ton of verses and the verses that I do need quite a bit of background (Day vs. Night; Light vs. Darkness, Truth vs. Untruth). They are all marked and can easily be referenced in my Sonship Bible Study notes. Please let me know if you would like a copy.

There are things like Satan brought in 'world of the ungodly' (2 Peter 2:5) in Genesis 3-6 and then God brought in the Flood and instituted human government (Genesis 6-9) to slow down the ungodliness of Satan's 'night' (Romans 13:12). Satan brings the world again to a level of ungodliness that God consigns the whole world over to the adversary at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) and then calls one man out of the Ur of the Chaldees and makes a covenant with him (Genesis 12-17). Another one was the stoning of Paul at Lystra (Acts 14:19-20). Satan heard what Paul was preaching and thought I've got to take care of this. Satan through his policy of evil, used men to kill Paul via stoning but what Satan didn't realize was, God changed the chess board with change of the programs. There is a progressive order of the attacks (Romans 8:35) of the 'sufferings of Christ' (2 Corinthians 1:5) and Satan couldn't pull 'sword' [death] on Paul because he didn't have all the doctrine to test Paul to that level (1 Corinthians 10:13) at that point in Paul's ministry. Satan didn't know that he didn't have permission to kill him. God brought Paul back to life and basically said 'get up Paul, I AM not through with you'. NOTE: The Lystra story explanation is a perfect example of need to better sequence the sections in this document.

It's almost like a game of chess going on between God and Satan. One will move and then the other will counter move, etc. And there are rules that both need to adhere to.

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

Satan's boast to God was basically, people would rather live in his world than God's and the only reason people obey God is because God is the biggest bully on the block. God has a plan to prove Satan wrong. To prove to Satan that God is the only rightful possessor of heaven and earth.

People ask, why didn't God just throw Satan in lake of fire at the beginning? Because that will prove Satan's point, that people just follow because He is omni-potent.

Words and their meaning

One thing that can get confusing about the Bible is people take one definition of a word and use it for that word everywhere. That is very troublesome and can lead to a lot of confusion. You should look at the context of the passage to ensure you have the proper definition of the word. As far as correct interpretation let's give some examples. There are 8 types of justification in your Bible. There are 15 different gospels in the Bible. There are at least 8, some people see 12, baptisms in your Bible. Glory is another word that has multiple meanings, depending on the context. It's important to understand the differences and what words mean in the passage they are being used in.

Gospel confusion

Related to the above, one mistake people make is they read the word 'gospel' and they think everywhere they read 'gospel' it means same thing. What people don't realize is there are 15 different gospels in their Bible. The word gospel simply means 'good news'. The one that confuses people the most is the gospel of the kingdom vs. the gospel of Christ. The former was directed to the nation of Israel. The latter is directed to Gentiles (and Jews) in this dispensation that we live in today. People today saved under the gospel of Christ tend to get their gospel mixed up with the gospel of kingdom and its doctrine. This was what happened to the Galatians and to a lesser extent, the Corinthians. The Galatians got saved under the gospel of Christ and then Judaizers came in telling them they needed to be circumcised and they needed to be baptized and they needed to keep the Sabbath. The churches at Corinth also got saved under the gospel of Christ but they brought in the religious lost who were the prominent people in the area to lead their churches. They wanted to be a big popular church. The Corinthians were impressed with the 'wisdom of men' (1 Corinthians 2:5) and 'wisdom of this world' (1 Corinthians 3:19). The sad thing is, Satan is using some of the biggest Christian ministries today to do these very same things.

The gospel of the kingdom was preached by John the Baptist and Jesus during His earthly ministry or public ministry, and then by the 12 during the extension of mercy (Luke 13:5-9; Acts 1-7). They all preached 'the kingdom is at hand'. They had signs to authenticate their message because 'Jews require a sign' (1 Corinthians 1:22). The two hallmark signs of the gospel of the kingdom were: 1. Healing the sick (Jesus healing their physical bodies) and 2. Casting out devils (Jesus healing their spirits). This was fixing the whole man. Neither of these infirmities will be present in the kingdom. This resonated with people who knew their scriptures. They knew that the next thing on the Israel program timeline was Daniel's 70th week and then the Kingdom was going to be brought in. That was Jesus' goal or intent when He came in His earthly ministry. What people don't understand is this is a message distinctly to the nation of Israel. Sure, there were Gentile Proselytes, but they were basically treated as second class citizens. Let's take Matthew 10. You can see when Jesus sends His disciples out, He explicitly says do not go into the cities of the Gentiles don't even go into the cities of the Samaritans (half Jews), but go exclusively to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matthew 10:5-6). Throughout the gospels, Jesus only dealt with 2 Gentiles, The Roman Centurion (Matthew 8:5-10) and the Syrophoenician woman (Matthew 15:21-28). In both cases, Jesus first rejects or rebuffs them as was per the law. It's only after their persistence and

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

their display of faith that He serves them. He did this as a testimony to the apostate nation, basically saying these dog Gentiles know more about Me and why I AM here than you, My own people, do. John the Baptist and the 12 were all looking for (the gospel) the kingdom, they were not looking for the gospel of Christ, the gospel that saves us today. They were not looking for the Death Burial and Resurrection. If they were looking for the Death Burial and Resurrection that saves members of the body of Christ:

- Peter wouldn't have resisted when Jesus said He needed to go to Jerusalem to die (Matthew 16:21-22).
- They wouldn't have gone back to fishing after the Cross (John 21:3). They went back to fishing because they thought it was over.
- They would've been at the tomb for three days, waiting for him to resurrect, but they weren't.

They didn't believe in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection because even for the first 7 Chapters of Acts in what's called the extension of mercy (prophesized in Luke 13:6-9):

- They were still looking for the kingdom (Acts 1:6).
- They were preaching to their own countrymen (Acts 2:22)
- They were preaching the Cross as a bad thing - you crucified your Messiah! (Acts 2:36; Acts 3:15; Acts 4:10; Acts 5:30)

What's different about us and what Paul teaches and by the way, even Paul is a Jew, but he received 'the revelation of the mystery' (Romans 16:25) from Jesus (Galatians 1:12), which includes:

- the gospel of God, which is Jesus is the resurrected Lord and Savior, and
- the gospel of Christ, which is Jesus paid for our sins in the death, burial, and resurrection, filling the role of our substitute Kinsman Redeemer (Romans 3:24; Romans 5:6) and our propitiation (Romans 3:25) for not only Israel but for Gentiles as well

Jesus (and the Spirit) did a whole lot more wonderful things for us during the death, burial, and resurrection but let's just keep it simple at this stage. So, we've got the gospel the kingdom for Israel, we've got the gospel of God (which both of these gospels are founded on – they both require Christ to be the resurrected Lord), and the gospel of Christ for Gentiles and Jews today. The gospel of the kingdom is part of Israel's program to reconcile earth back to God. The gospel of Christ is part of the mystery program or the dispensation of Gentile grace to reconcile the heavenly places to God. Both of them rely on the gospel of God, that Jesus is the resurrected Lord. Because if Jesus didn't resurrect, neither of the gospels are true (1 Corinthians 15:12-22-doctrine of the resurrection of the dead).

NOTE: There is so much packed in the Mystery program perspective. I put something in the Appendix as a start but several sections highlight individual components of the Mystery.

[The gospel of Christ](#)

I would be remiss if I didn't include a section on the gospel of Christ. I think there are a couple of reasons. First, if anybody would ever read this that was not truly saved, this lays out the steps to know how to get justified unto eternal life, or what most people refer to as 'saved from hell or from the debt and penalty of sin'. I would want them to have this opportunity. Second, and this is closely related, if people are not sure if they are saved or have some doubts, this is a way that they can be absolutely sure. Even a lot of Christians may benefit from seeing the way Paul lays things out in Romans.

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

The gospel of Christ is different from the gospel of kingdom. It's different than the 'everlasting gospel' (Revelation 14:6). It's different than 'the gospel of peace' (Isaiah 52:7-8). Technically, it's different than the gospel of God, although the gospel of God is foundational to both the gospel of Christ and the gospel of kingdom. The gospel of Christ is the gospel by which we are saved in this Dispensation of Gentile Grace. Probably the most well-known passage on the gospel of Christ that people know is 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, however, the doctrine of the gospel of Christ itself is found in Romans 1:16-Romans 3:26. There are many versions of 'the Romans Road' that people use to evangelize but what a lot of people miss is Paul has his own version of the Romans Road in the first part of Romans. There are 8 VTPs (volitional testing points) to determine if you are saved. Understanding these and believing these will give you 'saving faith'.

- **VTP 1: God Consciousness (Romans 1:19-20):** There are two things here. Number one, we should be able to determine or surmise that there is a God based on just looking at the parts of creation we can see. God used just a portion of his omnipotent power to create the heavens and the earth. And even though we can only see a small portion of that, it should be easy for one to conclude that there is a God. Number two, God put in the heart of every man knowledge of Him. Now, if a man's 'foolish heart is darkened' (Romans 1:21) and he/she chooses to deny both of these and reject God, that's really on him/her not God.
- **VTP 2: Excuse 1 of 4: 'I didn't know there was a God':** This is the first of 4 excuses that men have, claiming they didn't know God existed. That excuse is done away with by the two aspects of God consciousness in VTP 1. If a man ignores or rejects both of these, that's on him/her, not God.
- **VTP 3: Wrath Consciousness (Romans 1:20-32):** This passage shows why men are worthy of God's wrath. Paul here recounts how things were at the time of the tower of Babel when the whole world was in such a state that God basically consigned all men over the adversary. Things had gotten that bad. You can see that men didn't want to know God. They didn't want to retain God in their knowledge. You can see that they didn't want to tell their children or their grandchildren about God. You can see their foolish heart was darkened. You can see they turned to the worshiping idols of men and beasts and birds and fishes and bugs. Then, they crossed the line with God and they went from worshiping things made by men to worshiping things made by God - the sun, moon, and stars, and all the host of heaven. That was crossing a line with God. When men did that, you can see in the passage that God gave them over twice and gave them up once, so He was through with man. Interesting to note at the end of the passage (Romans 1:30-32), you can see the 23 categories of sins. Now, this isn't an exhaustive list of sins. This is just the categories of sins. What people have to understand, you only have to commit one of the sins to be worthy of God's wrath, and you can simply look at 'disobedient to parents' and realize if the other 22 don't catch you that one probably will.
- **VTP 4: Excuse 2 of 4: The excuse of 'relative righteousness' (Romans 2:1-11):** This is where a person will tell themselves, 'Well I'm not perfect, but I'm basically a good person. I pay my taxes. I go to church a couple times a year. I don't bother anybody. I don't commit any crimes. I see on TV people who are murderers and robbers. You know, God will judge those people, but surely He is not going to judge me since I'm basically a good person'. Unfortunately, these people are using the wrong standard of righteousness, the wrong measuring stick. Instead of comparing themselves to other men's righteousness, they need to be comparing themselves to the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. And even when you have studied that a while, it's really hard to comprehend how far even the 'best' people fall short of that.

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

- *VTP 5: Excuse 3 of 4: The Excuse of Extenuating Circumstances:* There is a version for Gentiles (Romans 2:12-16) and a version for Jews (Romans 2:17-29). On the Gentle version, Gentiles basically say I was never given the law, so God can't judge me by the law. This is a mistake because every man, even somebody who's an atheist, has their own moral code in their heart that they've developed. God says OK I won't judge you by the law, I'll judge you by your own moral code that you have in your mind and you're guilty still because you don't keep that. The Jew version basically says we have the righteousness of Abraham, the law was not given to us, the law was given to Gentiles to show how sinful they are. Well, that's not true either, so neither of these excuses are valid.
- *VTP 6: Excuse 4 of 4: Charging God with Unrighteousness (Romans 3:1-8):* This is where a person actually tries to charge God with unrighteousness. Basically, this is a man saying God doesn't have the right to condemn me of my wrath and that He is unrighteous to do so. Again, this is very, very wrong.
- *VTP 7: Conclusion – Full Prosecution of being 'under sin' (Romans 3:9) and 'guilty before God' (Romans 3:19) (Romans 3:9-20):* This seventh VTP is kind of a summation. Paul quotes a composition of several places in Psalm 14 & Psalm 53. He says quit with the excuses, that 'every mouth must be stopped' (Romans 3:19), you're all guilty and under the condemnation of your sin.
- *VTP 8: Good news of the Redemption that is in Christ (the beautiful 'But now...' (Romans 3:21)) (Romans 3:21-26):* The eighth and final VTP is the heart of our gospel. We learn that we can have the righteousness of the law through the faith OF Jesus Christ. It's important to understand the prepositional the difference between faith OF Jesus Christ and having faith IN Jesus Christ. Let's take the faith OF Jesus Christ. This is basically His Fidelity, His faithful performance to dot every eye, and cross every T, to do everything listed on the Redeemer checklist to qualify to be your substitute, kinsman Redeemer. That's the faith OF Christ. We have faith in Christ, in that we believe that He did that, and that He not only fulfills the redemption (Romans 3:24; Romans 5:6) checklist, but He is our propitiation (Romans 3:25). He is our complete, ultimate, all-sufficient, total, comprehensive Sacrifice for our sins, and not only our sins but for the sins of all mankind.

We are saved or more correctly, 'justified unto eternal life' by saving faith or simply belief in the finished works of Jesus Christ and nothing else. We don't need works to get saved (Romans 4:1-5) and we don't need works to stay saved (Romans 4:6-8). It is all in Christ alone, through Grace alone, by faith alone. You don't need to walk down an aisle, you don't need to say a prayer, you don't need to repent, you don't need to confess your sin, simply believe on the Lord Jesus. Now, starting to pray and living differently after you are justified unto eternal life ought to be the expectation, but those are not part of your justification, they are part of your sanctification.

A bit about Paul

Paul writes 13 letters and almost a third of the New Testament. Only one person has more prayers in your Bible than Paul and that's David. In his letters, Paul says 3 times says be ye followers of me [as he follows Christ] (1 Corinthians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 11:1; and Philippians 3:17). He says this not because he is egotistical, but because there is more than one way to follow Jesus in your Bible. You can follow Jesus based on His earthly ministry when He came to bring in the Kingdom for the nation of Israel and the gospel of the kingdom was preached. Or you can follow Jesus based on his heavenly ministry that He gave Paul with the mystery program and the gospel of Christ. If you don't see and understand the

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

difference, there's a chance you'll follow the wrong ministry/gospel instead of the one intended for you/Gentiles. Or you will mix the doctrines of the two programs together. Paul calls himself 'the apostle of the Gentiles' (Romans 11:13). You've got 40 authors in your Bible and he's the only one that'll tell you that. All of them but one are Jews. Even Paul is a Jew. What we don't understand in the west is that the Bible is largely a Jewish book written to the Jewish people. For example, the tribulation will largely occur in the Middle East (but we will already be raptured out at that point). But because we think the west is so important and it's all about America, people try to graft ourselves in where it's Biblically incorrect – Gog & Magog, Babylon, etc.

One of the major issues with the modern church is they build denominations by picking verses that they like from both programs and basically pervert the message. In several passages, Paul also calls his ministry 'my gospel' (Romans 2:16; Romans 16:25; 2 Timothy 2:8). Again, Paul is not being prideful or egotistical. He's simply trying to distinguish between his gospel, the gospel of Christ (which was in effect when he wrote it as it is today) and the gospel of the kingdom (which is no longer in effect and was the gospel that was preached by John the Baptist and Jesus in the gospels and the 12 in Acts 1-7 during the extension of mercy). You can see mixing the gospels was a problem in his day just as it is today.

[The order of the Books in your Bible](#)

Some scholars will lament that the Books of your Bible are not in the right sequence or not in the right order or not in chronological order and that makes it hard to follow. We believe they are incorrect. God put the Books in the exact, precise order they needed to be. God was a Genius in doing what He did in putting the books together in the order they are.

Basically, the poetry books (Job-Song of Solomon), the prophets (Isaiah-Malachi), and the Hebrew epistles (Hebrews-Revelation) are instruction for how the believing remnant should operate out in the day of Wrath and the Kingdom. They contain the 7 foundational doctrines on how to operate when God resumes His program with Israel after the rapture. Paul's epistles (Romans-Philemon) is instruction for the body of Christ:

- Labor with God in His operations on earth
 - preach the gospel to the lost
 - help people come to 'the knowledge of the Truth' (1 Timothy 2:4) – this is basically understanding the concepts in this document
- get saints edified unto godliness (thinking, living, and laboring like God) so we can labor with God here and in eternity out in the creature/heavenly places/ages to come

The doctrine for Israel and the doctrine for the body of Christ are different. This is because the things Israel will be doing in the kingdom on earth will be different than the things the body of Christ will be doing in the heavenly places. What's interesting is the structure or 'table of contents' for each curriculum is the same (Proverbs 1:1-6). It's not that we don't study Israel's scriptures. It is helpful to understand how things will play out, but we understand their doctrine is not for us. Israel's exhortations are in Proverbs 1:7-Proverbs 9:18. Our exhortations are interspersed throughout Paul's letters. There is some value studying each other's exhortations but we realize what Books are doctrinally relevant for each group. To clarify, we study ALL the Bible (the references in this document hopefully support that), including the Books written to Israel. But we don't get our doctrine out of them.

The Back Story of the Bible
An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

The importance of the Book of Acts and understanding the transition between programs

The Book of Acts is written to the nation of Israel to show them the interruption of their program. It shows the stumbling, fall, and diminishing of Israel. The Book starts off with God giving Israel a one-year extension of mercy (Acts 1-7), which was prophesied by Jesus (Luke 13:6-9) with the parable of the fig tree. He gave them one more year to repent and change their mind about Jesus being their Messiah and the kingdom. During the extension of mercy, you've got the last days prophecy of Joel (Joel 2:28-32) being fulfilled (Acts 2:16-21). You can see them still doing miracles. You can see them still preaching Jesus but what you notice is, they still preach Jesus as the coming King. They still preach Jesus as their Messiah. They still preach the gospel of the kingdom. They preach the Cross as bad news because they didn't understand and didn't know about the gospel of Christ. So, not just the gospels, but the first 7 chapters of Acts were still all under the gospel of kingdom. People who understood Israel's timeline and knew their O.T. scriptures knew that Stephen's vision of Jesus STANDING at the right hand of God (Acts 7:54-60) meant Jesus was coming back to usher in His day of wrath (Psalm 110:1). Jesus was coming back all right, but He was not coming back to have His day of wrath. He was coming back to save Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus Road make him 'the apostle of the Gentiles' (Romans 11:13) for the dispensation of Gentile grace and usher in a totally new program with Gentiles. There are several aspects to this, but Paul calls it 'the mystery' that had been hid (Romans 16:25; 1 Corinthians 2:7; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:26) and hid for a particular reason. So, Paul gets saved (Acts 9) and becomes the first member of the body of Christ. Believing this makes me a 'mid-Acts dispensationalist' which is heresy on some YouTube channels – LOL. It's entertaining to see how weak their argument is and how little they understand right division or what a dispensation even is. Paul then goes off the scene to Arabia for 3 years where he gets taught by Jesus about this new mystery program where God is now working with both Jews and Gentiles. In Acts 10, you see the changes start to happen. You see Peter, praying on the roof and he sees the sheet with all the unclean animals and he's told 'rise Peter kill and eat', and he says 'not so Lord' (Acts 10:9-16). You see Cornelius, summoning Peter to his house. The Lord tells Peter to go but he doesn't know why he's there. Peter goes because God tells him to go. Then he preaches, Gentiles get saved, they speak in tongues, and Peter's got to be wondering what in the world is happening? In the rest of the Book, you can see the 12 and the gospel the kingdom going off stage and you can see Paul and his ministry taking center stage. You see signs becoming more prominent initially in Paul's ministry. He had to do miracles during the transition period to authenticate his controversial message to the Jews and Gentiles. After all, 'Jews require a sign' (1 Corinthians 1:22). They expect miracles to authenticate someone's message to confirm it is from God. Paul had to perform miracles initially during his 'Jew first' (Romans 1:16) ministry. Now, these miracles didn't always help because the harsh truth of his message went over like a lead balloon. Notice whenever he went into new city, he went into the synagogue first. The reason why he did that is he was obliged to tell them that:

- God has stopped His program with Israel.
- He has started a new program working directly with Gentiles (and Jews).
- Gentiles no longer work through the agency of Israel to get to God, but they get to God in spite of the nation of Israel.

This message was, let's just say, not well received. This is why they wanted to kill him every place he went. Here is a guy who was the former Pharisee, who was doing signs and wonders to undeniably authenticate his message, and was telling Jews that God was no longer working with them. But worse than that, He was now working directly with those dog Gentiles. It's easy to imagine that Paul had a

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

great deal of guilt because his actions as a Pharisee contributed to all this happening, especially when you realize and understand Israel views salvation as more of a national issue than an individual issue.

[The importance to the Book of Romans for Christians today](#)

We believe that Romans is the foundational Book in your Bible for the body of Christ. It is where every Christian should start their Christian journey. It is the first of Paul's letters in the Bible for a very good reason.

If you look at the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20), the first five are about loving God and the last five are about loving your neighbor. If you look at the Book of Romans, the first 11 chapters are how to love God and the last five chapters (Ch. 12-16) are about how to love your neighbor. Romans allows a Christian today to do an amazing thing. It allows a Christian to effectively fulfill the law by walking after the Spirit and having Jesus Christ living His Life in you and through you versus trying to follow the law in the energy of your flesh and failing. This is one of the reasons why the Book of Romans is so vital for Christians who want to live for God today.

Let's look at a high-level outline of the Book:

- Groundwork or Prework for your Godliness Education
 - Justification: Romans 1:1-5:21
 - The Gospel of Christ: Romans 1:16-3:26
 - 5 Super proofs that Justification unto Eternal Life is by grace through faith: Romans 3:26-4:25
 - Eternal Security Doctrines: Romans 5:1-5:21
 - Sanctification: Romans 6:1-8:13
 - Orientation as an Adopted Son/Daughter: Romans 8:14-15
 - Establishment as an Adopted Son/Daughter: Romans 8:16-39
 - Paul's take on the dispensational or program change: Romans 9:1-11:36
- Level 1 Education: Romans 12:3-16:17
 - Four decision-making skills to begin to think like God (which are foundational for living like God and laboring with God)
 - Godly Wisdom: Romans 12:3-16
 - Godly Justice: Romans 12:17-13:7
 - Godly Judgment: Romans 13:8-4
 - Godly Equity: Romans 14:1-15:7
 - A reiteration of the dispensational change and Paul's apostleship in connection with it: Romans 15:8-33

NOTE: The doctrine is very progressive. As much as people want to, you can't just jump to Romans 12:3. It would be like trying to get your PhD after high school.

You are not being treated as a child and given a list of do's and don'ts like Israel. God wants to treat you as an adopted son or daughter. Your Father wants you to be able to think for yourself just as an earthly father would want their earthly adopted son to be able to think for themselves. Neither God or an earthly father wants to have to constantly look over their adopted son's shoulder while they are handling the family business. It's the same principle in Biblical adoption.

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

Baptisms

Another topic that may be controversial is the topic of baptisms. First, let's define baptism. Simply put, a baptism is 'a purification unto sanctification that results in a new identification'. Most, but not all of the baptisms referenced in your Bible pertain to the nation of Israel under the law. Baptism was a way of cleansing or purification. It was a way to wash away your sins. If you are a believer, a member of the body of Christ, you have been forgiven of the debt and penalty of sin. There's nothing to wash away. There's nothing to be purified from. You have already been cleansed with the blood of Christ. To clarify, we do believe in the spirit baptism. Here you learn if you have been saved that you are 'baptized into Jesus Christ' (Romans 6:3) and you were 'baptized into His Death' (Romans 6:3). Both of these baptisms tie to who you've been made to be in Christ. The first was done by the Spirit of Christ and is part of your Justification. The second was performed by the Spirit of God as part of your Sanctification. There's more to share on these, but it's beyond the scope of this.

The Mercies of God

There are a couple really important concepts that are in your Bible that most people in the church today really don't have a full grasp of. The concepts of:

- 'being in Christ' (which ties more to your justification/position).
- 'having Christ in you' (which ties more to your sanctification/function).

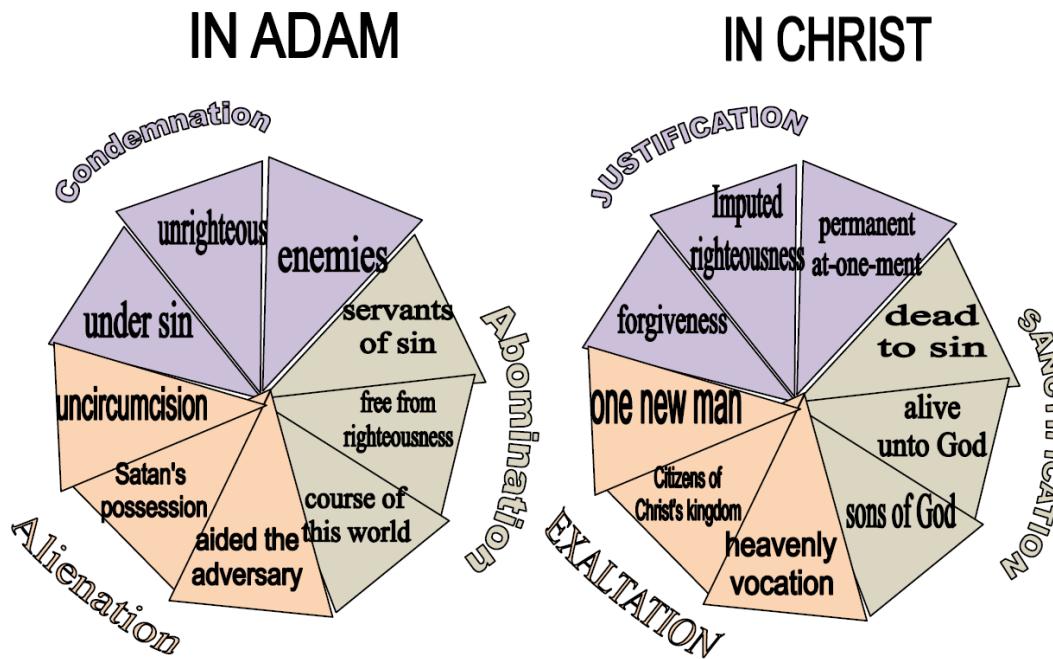
Let's talk about the first one, being in Christ. When you got saved and you accepted Jesus Christ and trusted on Him as your all-sufficient Savior, you believed in the faith of Christ, his faithful fidelity to perform everything He needed to do in the redemption (Romans 3:24; Romans 5:6) and propitiation (Romans 3:25) processes. There's a redemption checklist that He checked off that I need to put in an Appendix at some point. When you did that, most people understand that that saves them from hell. That's great and that's a big deal, but they really miss everything else that they got when you were put in Christ. My Pastor says it's like you get a big, wrapped gift box that represents your salvation package and you keep pulling things out of it if you know there's more things in there. Most people pull out 'you are saved from hell' and don't realize they have 20-something things still in their gift box.

When your 'old man (in Adam) was crucified' (Romans 6:6) and you were put in Christ, your status changed:

- In Adam -> In Christ
- Condemnation -> Justification
- Abomination -> Sanctification
- Alienation -> Exaltation

Below is an image from my Pastor that expands on this. I will elaborate on this in a future version.

The Back Story of the Bible
An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter



The mercies of God are found in Romans 3-8 but you see them come up throughout Paul's letters. They are supposed to make your love for God deepen (as you understand more about each mercy) and abound (as you understand each mercy) when you understand everything He did when He put you in Christ. Here are a couple other artifacts from my notes.

Mercies of God - In Christ Mercies			
#	Verse	Reasons for your love for God to deepen and abound	Text
1	Romans 3:26	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification JUST, AND THE JUSTIFIER
2	2 Corinthians 5:21	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification Standing THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM
3	Galatians 2:16	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST...WE HAVE BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST, THAT WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE FAITH OF CHRIST
4	Titus 3:7	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE
5	Ephesians 1:7	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 1 of 3 : Forgiveness THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS
6	Romans 4:7	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 1 of 3 : Forgiveness INIQUITIES ARE FORGIVEN...SINS ARE COVERED
7	Romans 4:8	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 1 of 3 : Forgiveness NOT IMPUTE SIN
8	Galatians 3:11	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 1 of 3 : Forgiveness JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH
9	Galatians 3:13	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 1 of 3 : Forgiveness MADE A CURSE FOR US
10	Ephesians 4:32	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 1 of 3 : Forgiveness GOD FOR CHRIST'S SAKE HATH FORGIVEN YOU
11	Colossians 1:14	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 1 of 3 : Forgiveness FORGIVENESS OF SINS
12	Colossians 2:13	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 1 of 3 : Forgiveness HAVING FORGIVEN YOU ALL TRESPASSES
13	Titus 2:14	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 1 of 3 : Forgiveness REDEEM US FROM ALL INIQUITY
14	Romans 3:22	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 2 of 3 : Imputed Righteousness RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD
15	Romans 4:3	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 2 of 3 : Imputed Righteousness COUNTED UNTO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
16	Romans 4:5	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 2 of 3 : Imputed Righteousness FAITH IS COUNTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
17	Romans 4:22-25	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 2 of 3 : Imputed Righteousness IMPUTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
18	Romans 4:24	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 2 of 3 : Imputed Righteousness SHALL BE IMPUTED
19	Romans 5:19	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 2 of 3 : Imputed Righteousness THE OBEDIENCE OF ONE SHALL MANY BE MADE RIGHTEOUS
20	Romans 5:21	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 2 of 3 : Imputed Righteousness RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTO ETERNAL LIFE BY JESUS CHRIST
21	Romans 6:18	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 2 of 3 : Imputed Righteousness SERVANTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
22	Philippians 3:9	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 2 of 3 : Righteousness THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS OF GOD BY FAITH
23	Romans 5:1	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 3 of 3 : Atonement PEACE WITH GOD
24	Romans 5:11	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Justification 3 of 3 : Atonement WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED THE ATONEMENT
25	Romans 6:2	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Sanctification 1 of 3 : Dead to Sin DEAD TO SIN "Foundation of your Sanctification"
26	Romans 6:11	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Sanctification 1 of 3 : Dead to Sin DEAD TO SIN
27	Romans 6:11	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Sanctification 2 of 3 : Alive to God ALIVE UNTO GOD
28	Romans 8:14	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Sanctification 2 of 3 : Alive to God SONS OF GOD
29	Romans 8:15	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Sanctification 3 of 3 : Adopted Sons SPIRIT OF ADOPTION 'Capstone of your Sanctification'
30	Galatians 4:5	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Sanctification 3 of 3 : Adoption ADOPTION OF SONS
31	Ephesians 2:15	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Exaltation 1 of 3 : One New Man TWAIN ONE NEW MAN
32	Ephesians 1:3	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Exaltation 2 of 3 : Citizenship in Christ's Kingdom IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST
33	Colossians 1:13	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Exaltation 2 of 3 : Citizenship in Christ's Kingdom TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON
34	Ephesians 4:1	Mercy of God : In Christ Identity	Exaltation 3 of 3 : Eternal Vocation VOCATION WHEREWITH YE ARE CALLED

The Back Story of the Bible
An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

Here's a table of the non-in Christ mercies:

Mercies of God - Non-In Christ Mercies			
#	Verse	Reasons for your love for God to deepen and abound	Text
1	Ephesians 1:6	Mercy of God	Exaltation ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED
2	Ephesians 2:6	Mercy of God	Exaltation MADE US SIT TOGETHER IN HEAVENLY PLACES
3	1 Corinthians 6:2-3	Mercy of God	Exaltation Eternal Vocation
4	Romans 8:15	Mercy of God	Freedom Freedom from fear motivation
5	Romans 8:15	Mercy of God	Freedom Freedom from the bondage of the law
6	Romans 5:5	Mercy of God	Given the Spirit HOLY GHOST WHICH IS GIVEN TO US
7	Romans 8:23	Mercy of God	Glorified Body THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY
8	Romans 8:19	Mercy of God	Heavenly Vocation MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD
9	Romans 8:17	Mercy of God	Heir of God Inheritance (Justification) HEIRS OF GOD
10	Romans 8:17	Mercy of God	Joint-Heir Inheritance (Sanctification) JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST
11	Romans 8:2	Mercy of God	Liberty FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH
12	Galatians 5:1	Mercy of God	Liberty LIBERTY
13	Galatians 5:13	Mercy of God	Liberty CALLED UNTO LIBERTY
14	Ephesians 2:4	Mercy of God	Mercy / Love (God is) RICH IN MERCY...HIS GREAT LOVE
15	Romans 5:6	Mercy of God	The fundamental mercy CHRIST DIED FOR THE UNGODLY
16	Romans 5:8	Mercy of God	The fundamental mercy CHRIST DIED FOR US
17	Romans 8:29-30	Other things	God's 5 Steps of Provision that ensure your success in the Sonship Education
18	Romans 8:31-35	Other things	Answers to the Five Probing Questions

Having Christ in you (Colossians 1:27; see matrix below for more references) and being conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29) is the pinnacle of a believer's sanctified life. Explaining it in a paragraph or two is extremely difficult. Learning to live out of it is not natural because most of it goes against the flesh or the natural man, not to mention a lot is very different from what most churches teach today.

The Back Story of the Bible
 An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

#	Verse	Christ IN You Text
1	Romans 5:2	GLORY OF GOD
2	Romans 5:17	REIGN IN LIFE
3	Romans 8:18	THE GLORY THAT SHALL BE REVEALED IN US
4	Romans 8:29	CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON 'Goal of your sanctification / Sonship Life'
5	Romans 8:36	KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG...ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER
6	Romans 13:14	PUT YE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
7	2 Corinthians 4:10	THE LIFE ALSO OF JESUS MIGHT BE MADE MANIFEST IN OUR BODY
8	2 Corinthians 4:10	THE LIFE ALSO OF JESUS MIGHT BE MADE MANIFEST IN OUR MORTAL FLESH
9	2 Corinthians 4:11	INWARD MAN IS RENEWED DAY BY DAY
10	2 Corinthians 12:10	WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG
11	Galatians 1:16	TO REVEAL HIS SON IN ME
12	Galatians 3:27	PUT ON CHRIST
13	Galatians 4:19	CHRIST BE FORMED IN YOU
14	Ephesians 1:4	HOLY AND WITHOUT BLAME BEFORE HIM IN LOVE
15	Ephesians 3:16	TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH MIGHT BY HIS SPIRIT IN THE INNER MAN
16	Ephesians 3:17	CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS BY FAITH
17	Ephesians 3:20	THE POWER THAT WORKETH IN US
18	Ephesians 4:13	THE FULNESS OF CHRIST
19	Philippians 1:20	CHRIST SHALL BE MAGNIFIED IN MY BODY
20	Philippians 1:29	SUFFER FOR HIS SAKE
21	Philippians 3:8	MAY WIN CHRIST
22	Philippians 3:10	THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS...MADE CONFORMABLE UNTO HIS DEATH
23	Philippians 4:7	Result = THE PEACE OF GOD
24	Colossians 1:27	CHRIST IN YOU
25	Colossians 3:3	YOUR LIFE IS HID WITH CHRIST IN GOD
26	Colossians 3:4	CHRIST, WHO IS OUR LIFE
27	Colossians 3:16	LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY

We believe that just like you can't produce your own justification, you can't produce your own sanctification. Just like your works cannot produce eternal life, your works cannot produce functional life. Isaiah said 'our righteousnesses are as filthy rags' (Isaiah 64:6).

Following the part of the law that suits you (because let's face it, no Christians today follow the entire law) or following what your preacher's version of the law or whatever moral code your upbringing and environment spawned in you, this is producing righteousness out of your flesh. This is righteousness that God cannot accept. God can only accept His righteousness.

For your justification, one of the mercies of God when you got saved was you got the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to you. For your sanctification, you need Christ living His life in you and through you producing righteousness on your behalf.

But how do you do that? Great question. In general it is understanding the following:

- Understanding who you were made in Christ and the things that were done for you to put you in Christ (Romans 6:1-13)

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

- Giving you spiritual fitness (perfect justification and perfect sanctification) is foundational. He has to give you everything positionally so you can achieve it in function. Otherwise, you are just producing this in the energy of your flesh. It has to be out of what He has done.
- Understanding the contrasts between walking after the Spirit and walking after the flesh and how, using godly thinking, allows the Spirit to dwell in you and then allows Christ to come in and quicken your mortal flesh and live His life in you (Romans 8:1-13)
- Learning the 4 decision making skills (Romans 12:3-15:7) that are overlaid with the features of godly love and start making decisions like God would
- Living out of godly charity (1 Corinthians 13:1-4)
- There is an aspect of prayer, edification prayer, that is weaved into all of this where you are constantly talking to your Father on what's going on in your life, what you are planning to do, and how your understanding of the doctrine guides your decisions (Romans 12:12c; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- It's important to understand:
 - Why you can't do it yourself
 - How you let Christ do it for you
 - How to think like God thinks
 - How to make decisions for the same reason God would make them

That's probably a lot to unpack and I didn't do a very good job.

Spiritual Gifts (then) and Offices (now)

When God interrupted Israel's program and brought in the Dispensation of Gentile Grace, things were in a different place during this transition period. At that time, when the Dispensation of Gentile Grace was starting, there was no instruction in it, there was no applicable scripture. It had to be written. So, in this transition, God gave spiritual gifts to people in the local assemblies to help facilitate or accommodate the edification of the church unto godliness. There were other operations of God that the spiritual gifts helped accomplish but let's concentrate on this primary operation of the spiritual gifts – to communicate the word of God. This was an imperfect solution, but it was just a transitional solution until the completed canon of scripture could be fulfilled. Paul says 'But that which is perfect (the completed revelation of scripture) has come, then that which is in part (the spiritual gifts) shall be done away' (1 Corinthians 13:10). Basically, the spiritual gifts were God's temporary or PARTial solution to edify the local assembly till the completed canon of scripture was compiled.

Let's talk about some of the gifts that relate to this. You have the gifts of an apostle and prophet. This is another case where terms mean different things depending on what part of the Bible they're in or what the context of the passage is.

Take the term prophet. A prophet in the Old Testament was somebody who heard from God, either a voice or some revelation or dream, they heard from God and then they communicated that word to the people. Think of the major prophets, the minor prophets, etc. That's the Old Testament definition. An apostle was, basically think of Jesus' 12 disciples. Apostle means 'sent one'. Paul fills this apostle role for the Gentiles, saying 'I am the apostle of the Gentiles (Romans 11:13). But, the functions that prophets and apostles perform when Paul talks about the spiritual gifts is different than the definitions above. Prophets, during this transition period, would receive a letter from Paul or someone and they would

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

determine whether it was inspired or not. Not all of Paul's letters are inspired. For the letters that were inspired, they would meticulously make copies of the inspired letter and then the apostles would take those copies to the surrounding churches. At the surrounding churches, the process would repeat. The prophets in the surrounding churches would determine if the letter was inspired or not. For the letters that were inspired, they would meticulously make more copies of the inspired letter and then the apostles of the surrounding churches would take those letters to the churches that surrounded them. Detractors say we don't have the original autographs, we don't have the inspired copies, but what would be easier for Satan to destroy or counterfeit – 1 original autograph or thousands of copies spread everywhere? You have a multiplicity of copies and that is how the word gets preserved. People with the gift of teaching in each church taught the assembly. When Paul says 'covet earnestly the best gifts' (1 Corinthians 12:30), he is talking about the gifts above – Paul even lists them in priority order 'first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that...' (1 Corinthians 12:27). Paul is telling the Corinthians this because:

- They had become enamored and elevated the gifts of lower importance (tongues, miracles) to be the highest importance in their church and the highest importance gifts to the backburner (sound like any churches today?).
- They were using gifts meant to be used outside the assembly inside the assembly and vice versa.

Today, we don't have gifts, we have offices (Romans 12:6-8). Here are some summary notes on the offices. I have a comparison matrix (Gifts vs. Offices) but I can't seem to locate it.

<i>Then.....</i>	<i>...Now</i>
1. PROPHECY	BISHOP/PASTOR (static office, one that doesn't change; doesn't tell you everything you do but there are qualifications in the Bible for this office)
	- MM used to shy away from the term BISHOP but both are fine. Under the spiritual gifts, the one with the gift of a Prophet would supernaturally receive a revelation from God concerning God's word. He would speak that word to the assembly before it was ever written down. The supernatural gift of PROPHECY gets replaced with the completed revelation of scripture. The closest thing to what a prophet was doing is the office of "pastor" or "bishop." Today, the Bishop is responsible for properly handling the word of truth, teaching it correctly and exhorting the assembly in connection with it.
2. MINISTRY	BISHOP (if there is a small group with no deacons)/DEACON (also qualifications for a DEACON is 1 Timothy 2, they're almost identical to a BISHOP)
	- Two jobs that a DEACON is supposed to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the PASTOR and do: 1. Helps people through the edification process. If new people come in, someone has to know where they are and help them get caught up. MM says think about new folks that come in the door when we are in Romans 14. Doing the same job as the PASTOR is to the assembly only working with individuals to catch them up. 2. Maintain a vigilant lookout on the POEs attempt to make inroads into this assembly. Stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the PASTOR to make sure the adversary doesn't come in and ruin the assembly and get it corrupted in its understanding of the doctrine. MM says this is a huge job, men that not only need to understand the doctrine but they need to understand the POE. - The deacons assist the bishop in maintaining the integrity of the assembly and protecting the assembly from the POE.
3. TEACHING	BISHOP (static office) - APT TO TEACH-2 Timothy 2:24
	- Under the spiritual gifts, another stood up to exhort and yet another stood to teach. But all of these fall under the purview of the pastor in the more excellent way.
4. EXHORT	BISHOP (functioning sort of as a father) - EXHORT-2 Timothy 4:2
<i>Summation of the Practical/Material Offices:</i>	
<i>The second 3 are the fluid, dynamic, not static, changing offices providing for that local church orderliness. Don't think lightly of these because these are MUSTs if this assembly is going to do what it is supposed to do. It will take all of these offices being occupied GH: for us to operate as a body. These offices are occupied by those who do not hold offices which are static. These will ebb and flow with what they are doing now and what they are going to do later. The three categories of giving, ruling and mercy will have more specific offices under them. The local assembly is a place where the discharge of those offices takes place first. While you are still concerned with your edification unto godliness, now you begin to see the outworking of your edification as a benefit to the rest of the saints in your assembly by means of the office you hold. You now see yourself as part of a body and not just an individual; you are part of a whole assembly with a part to play, so to speak. The last 3 gifts are all done WITH something.</i>	
<i>One of the reasons we are not given a list of all the practical needs is because not every assembly has the same practical needs. Some needs every assembly has in common, but other needs vary from assembly to assembly and even vary from time to time within the same assembly. This is why Paul uses general terms such as "the work of the ministry."</i>	
<i>5. GIVING</i>	
<i>- It does take giving to sustain a work. See your giving as more than keeping the doors open. See it as an opportunity, because of what we are doing here, as godly labor and serve the Lord. Giving with the overarching idea to meet a need, of the assembly or its members. Saying I can give of myself to meet this particular need. This benefit will be to this corporate assembly or it might be to just one member of this assembly</i>	
<i>- GIVING: The first general operation of God is to provide for the sustenance and continuance of this local church. God wants this assembly to sustain itself so that it can continue. Anything that we do with this operation in mind constitutes godly labor.</i>	
<i>- RULING: The second general operation of God is to provide for the orderliness of this local church.</i>	
<i>- MERCY: The third general operation of God is to provide for the relief and well-being of the members of this local church. God wants those who suffer to find their comfort and relief among their fellow members. It is through the offices of mercy that the spiritual and physical well-being of the members is provided.</i>	
<i>Summary: The 3 practical offices:</i>	
<i>- GIVING - Sustaining the body - provides for continuity for the body</i>	
<i>- RULING - Organizing the body - provides for order to the body</i>	
<i>- MERCY - Maintaining the body - provides for repair or restoration of the body (maintenance is what keeps something from breaking down)</i>	

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

Section 2: The Backstory

The pre-Genesis 1:1 Timeline

Before God created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1), He created the angels and we know at one point that all the angels were aligned with God (Job 38:7). Sometime after God created the angels, He gave them jobs. Angels and man are designed to work but it's how work was before the Fall, not how we think of work today. You can see God putting Adam to work before the Fall (Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:19-20). God created a government of angels in the heavenly places, sometimes referred to as the 'host of heaven' (numerous references). Government is a divine institution of God (along with things like Labor, Marriage, Family, and the local assembly). These divine institutions were created by God and cannot be changed or improved upon. The angels were basically given 'names' or positions in this government of God. These positions have names like principalities and powers and mighty thrones and dominions (Ephesians 3:10; Colossians 1:16; others). Think of these like President, Vice President, US Senator, US Congressman, Governor, State Senator, State Congressman, Mayor, School Superintendent, etc. These are positional names or titles of authority in the government of God. There's a hierarchy similar to an organization chart for the heavens and for the earth.

The first Two Weeks

Originally God's Plan was to create everything in the first week, train Adam and Eve as his adopted sons and daughters the second week, and then bring down his Kingdom on the second Sabbath. More on Biblical Adoption later.

Things got detoured from a couple different perspectives, one from a heavenly perspective and a second from an earthly perspective. On day 2, iniquity was found in Satan's heart (Ezekiel 28:15). When God saw this, He had to make some changes that basically disconnected the heavens and the earth so they couldn't function as His original design for them intended. He did that to keep Satan from getting more power over the heavens and earth when he usurped possession of heaven and earth. Since God is all-knowing, He already knew this would happen. It was not a surprise to Him. On Day 4, Satan fell and started the angelic rebellion when his pride got the best of him. His sales pitch to the other angels must have been something like I can run things better than God can, I will treat you better than God, etc. It must have been a compelling pitch because he got a third of the angels (Revelation 12:4, 9) to rebel with him. He was strategic in the angels that rebelled, he not only got a third of the angels to rebel, he got 23 of the 24 principalities to rebel (Daniel 10:21). These are the highest-ranking positions, the highest ranking angels in the government of God. To stop this angelic rebellion from progressing further, God created hell to stop it (Matthew 25:41). Then later, God had to enlarge hell to accommodate men (Isaiah 5:14?). Then, on day 7, man fell in the Garden. This was the day before Adam and Eve were to be adopted by God and get trained by God in His Business in the second week. At this point, Satan has become the usurped possessor of heaven and earth, and he has the titles 'prince of the power of the air' (Ephesians 2:2) and 'prince of this world' (John 14:30), respectively.

Angels

Let's talk about Angels. Angel is really a job description or a title for 'a messenger'. Angels are actually spirit beings. When you see the word 'angel' in your Bible, think of someone delivering a message. It is also always a wingless male. Over the years, I have heard pastors, not necessarily my current one, talk about the Angel of the Lord references in the Old Testament being Jesus. Not saying that's right or

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

wrong, but if Jesus functioned in this capacity, He obviously wasn't an angel, but He was delivering a message. I think seraphim and cherubim have wings and higher rankings in the upper echelon of God's government, but I'm getting over my skis a bit here.

Because angels were, in today's terms, manufactured by God individually, Jesus would have to repeat what He did for mankind on the Cross for each angel, one by one. He would have to go through the redemption process for each of them to redeem them or buy them back.

Angels are built with a certain amount of knowledge and wisdom that's pre-built into them and it cannot change. They have a wisdom greater than men, but their wisdom cannot increase. In the Old Testament, angels were always delivering messages on behalf of God. This is because God treated Israel as children. While an angel's base knowledge is greater a man's base knowledge, it is NOT greater than the wisdom and knowledge that man is CAPABLE of acquiring. This is why Satan hates man SO MUCH. Because we have the capability to develop wisdom that exceeds his and it infuriates him. And why he wants to keep the Mystery a mystery. I put a section on the Mystery in the Appendix but it is not flushed out. We need to develop godly wisdom, a wisdom that exceeds the angels, because Paul says we will 'judge the world' (1 Corinthians 6:2) and we will 'judge angels' (1 Corinthians 6:3). We have to develop a wisdom that exceeds angels and learn to think like them, because we'll be managing or judging good angels as we fill the positions of the fallen angels in the heavenly places.

Satan's Plan of Evil and Policy of Evil

You can see Satan's plan of evil in the 5 'I wills' (Isaiah 14:12-14). That's his plan of evil and you can see at the end of it, he says 'I will be like the Most High' (Isaiah 14:14). He says 'like' because he knows he can't be God and he knows he can't get rid of God. If we look at the Melchizedek passage, we can see what 'the Most High' means – 'possessor of heaven and earth' (Genesis 14:19-20). So that is Satan's main goal in his plan of evil – to be 'the possessor of heaven and earth'. Satan also has a policy of evil. This policy changes over time, depending on what's going on in the world and what program God is running or what dispensation the world is in. Look at the plan of evil like a corporate strategy and the policy of evil the implementation of that strategy. The plan of evil never changes but the policy of evil changes depending on the dispensation and what's going on in the world. God will eventually destroy both as part of fulfilling His eternal plan and purpose (Isaiah 25:7).

The history of Israel

In Leviticus 26, and again, when the law is given a second time in Deuteronomy 28, you can see God telling Israel how things are going to work out for them. You see:

- what happens if they keep the commandments, they get blessings (Leviticus 26:1-13) and what happens if they don't, they get curses (Leviticus 26:14-41)
- what are called the 5 Courses of Punishment, or the 5 Cycles of judgment (Leviticus 26:14-41)
- you can see how they've all historically played out except the 5th installment of the 5th course of punishment. Daniel 9 gives more details on the 5th installment.

God's plan to take back the earth and the heavens from Satan

It has always been pretty clear in the Bible how God was going to repossess the earth back to Himself. It was through the nation of Israel and bringing in a Kingdom and then ruling in that Kingdom. What was not clear in the Old Testament and there's no mention of it because it was a mystery that was kept secret

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

from the beginning of the world (Romans 16:25; Ephesians 3:9), was how God was going to reconcile the heavenly places back to Himself. This plan was not made known until Paul unveiled the Mystery in his epistles. God had to keep it secret. Paul refers to it as the Mystery. There are many components to the Mystery – there's a start of a section on the Mystery in the Appendix.

What we see when you get to the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:54-56), we see Stephen having a vision of Jesus STANDING at the right Hand of God. Israel knew Jesus was SITTING at the Right Hand of God 'until I make thine enemies thy footstool' (Psalm 110:1). When Stephen saw Jesus STANDING at the right hand of God, they thought He was coming back to execute his day of wrath because that's the only thing left on their timeline (other than the millennial kingdom), the 5th installment of the 5th course of punishment. That was the only thing left that was known in the Old Testament timeline that was prophesied by the Old Testament prophets. What people didn't know, which was kept secret from the foundation of the world, was what God did next. God brought in a Mystery program. That's Paul's term. He brought in the DOGG (Dispensation of Gentile Grace) that nobody knew about including Satan. God kept it a secret from when the world began/foundation of the world, and it is through this Mystery program that he will reconcile the heavenly places back to Himself. If you search Paul's letters and look for the word 'mystery' it appears over and over. Paul explains the various aspects of the mystery. What Paul shows and what you learn in his epistles is that Jesus not only made dispensations for Israel as their Messiah when He was on the Cross, but He also made dispensations for us as members of the body of Christ, when He functioned as our substitute kinsman Redeemer. He did a lot of other things that are probably beyond the scope of this. The Bible says that had the princes of this world known what Jesus was doing on the Cross, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:8). The Devil and his angels would not have used men to kill Jesus if they knew everything that was happening in the Cross-work of Christ. So basically, when Jesus died on the cross, Satan's thought process was well - I'm going to lose possession of the earth, but I'm going to keep my hold on the heavenly places, because God doesn't have any way to get that back from me. That was his realm, which he probably cared about the most between the two. What he didn't realize was - Jesus was doing things for Gentiles when He was on the Cross, and not just for Jews. God was also making provisions to take back the heavenly places using the body of Christ. We can see these in Paul's letters. My Pastor always says it would have been fun to see Satan's reaction when he learned all this when Paul started preaching the mystery.

Section 3: Living today as a member of the body of Christ

Biblical Adoption

An important concept to understand is Biblical adoption. Today when we think of adoption, we think of a couple that can't have children and adopt a child from single mother. Or we think of a family that has compassion for a group of kids overseas that lost their parents in a tragic accident and adopt all the children. That's not the way your Bible means for you to look at adoption. Adoption in Biblical times was the same at each culture. It was the same in Greek culture. It was the same in Roman culture. It was the same in the Hebrew culture. It was the same in eastern orthodox culture. It was all the same and it is the way your Bible means for you to view it.

In Biblical times, with wealthy and royal families, children were raised by 'tutors and governors' (Galatians 4:2). The governor would manage a child's day – when they got up, what they wore, what they ate, when they studied, when they played, when they went to bed, etc. The tutor managed the child's education – what they studied, when, what they studied next. Children, much like the children of

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

Israel, had limited decision making. There would come a time in Biblical times was when an earthly father would look across his children and find a child to 'adopt'. This could be a son or could be a daughter (or a child outside his family if his children had no interest in his business), who had a heart for the family business. One that had the desire to learn the family business and eventually take over the business. The father would 'adopt' one of his own children and then the father would train up the child in that business (think of the TV show 'Sanford and Son' or a law firm 'Smith and Son'). To work with him in that business and eventually take over that business when the earthly father passed off the scene. Obviously, God the Father is not going to be passing off the scene but His desire and perspective around this is the same as an earthly father's. He wants sons and daughters who understand what adoption is, understand what it entails, and cry 'abba Father' (Romans 8:15), which is basically us saying 'YES! I want this'. That is what adoption meant when the Biblical writers use the term and that's how you should look at it. Being an adopted son or daughter and being educated qualifies you to play a role in God's eternal plan and purpose.

God shows the pattern of adoption during the interlude of mercy between the 1st and 2nd courses of punishment when God gave rolled back the punishments and gave Israel a foretaste of the kingdom. It can be seen with Jesse, David, and Solomon:

- Jesse develops in David a heart for God
- God trains David in godly wisdom
- David turns around and teaches Solomon

Sonship

There is a term that is not explicitly in your Bible that you can see in your Bible – Sonship.

We believe that Sonship answers the question – 'OK, I'm saved. Now what?' If you ever wondered if there is more to the Christian life, we believe this is your answer. If you have ever questioned the practicality and relevancy of studying your Bible, we believe this is your answer.

Once we have trusted Jesus Christ as our all-sufficient Savior, we are part of the family of God. Probably not controversial. This is tied to your justification. But there is a whole other level tied to your sanctification in which you are a son of God. Understanding it will not only change the way you live in this world, but it will also impact your eternity as well.

When the Bible talks about our heavenly Father adopting us, it is talking about the purpose that He had when He saved us (Galatians 4:4-5). Most people believe God sent His Son into the world is so that we could be saved and have our sins forgiven. This is not untrue, but this doesn't go far enough. Of course, He wants to do that, but He must do that in order to accomplish His real purpose, so we could receive something more than just forgiveness of sins. Biblical adoption is the purpose behind God sending forth His Son. Redemption was not the end, it was the means to the end. You needed spiritual fitness, perfect justification and perfect sanctification, to be adopted. This was one of the provisions Jesus and the Spirit made on the Cross (Romans 6:3).

Just like an earthly father adopts his son or daughter to train them up in their business, your heavenly Father wants to adopt you and train you up in His Business. Of course, our heavenly Father isn't going to die one day and leave us His Business, but we can have the honor and privilege of working with Him in His Business for eternity. God wants to train you now in this world to labor with Him in eternity, He

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

wants to instill His Wisdom in your inner man and conform you to the image of His Son. This understanding will transform your Christian life.

We believe God actually adopted Jesus as His Son:

- Remember what Jesus said when they found Him in the temple, 'wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?' (Luke 2:49). Jesus understood what was going on. A couple verses later, it says Jesus 'increased in wisdom' (Luke 2:52).
- The Heavenly Father woke up Jesus every morning and instructed Him as the Son. His Father woke Him up every morning and instructed Him and He grew in wisdom (Isaiah 50:4). This is what Jesus was doing between 12 and 30. This is the same age range training happened during Biblical times.
- Think about the times Jesus said 'not my will but Thy Will be done'. This is God installing His Wisdom in His Son.

As sons of our heavenly Father, He does not expect us to be mindless drones. We're supposed to have an understanding of our Father's Business. I push this button and these things come out but I don't know anything about how it happened. Our Father is not glorified by that and Satan's not intimidated by that. Don't look at it has just show me the button to push and the lever to pull. You can't look at Sonship that way. This is not the issue of learning the motions to go through, this is really being able to intelligently understand this is what my Father is doing and understand what the adversary is doing because part of the display that we're putting forth is our intelligence with regard to what is happening.

[Your lens when reading through Paul's letters](#)

One of the things that is necessary when reading through Paul's letters is to understand or think about the perspective of Paul and the people he's writing to.

First, Paul realizes that he is putting together the training manual for the body of Christ. At the end of the last letter Paul wrote, Paul asks Timothy to 'bring the books, especially the parchments' (2 Timothy 4:13). Paul determined the order of his letters and he put them in a doctrinally progressive order. There are people at my church who believe Paul determined the order of the books for the entire New Testament. I am not sure I believe that but don't know enough to refute.

Second, the doctrine for the church today, believers who are members of the body of Christ, can only be found in Paul's epistles. This is not to suggest that you don't study your entire Bible. You do. You must study the whole Bible. However, the doctrine you live out of is in Paul's epistles.

Third, he is writing to people in churches that understand Biblical adoption. They understand that they've been adopted as a son or daughter of God. They have cried 'Abba Father' (Romans 8:15). They had gone through the Romans doctrine (even if Paul hadn't been inspired to write the letter) where they were oriented as sons (Romans 8:14-15) and established as sons (Romans 8:16-39).

Fourth, all of the churches are or were effectively going through the godliness education/edification process. You can see Paul, after laying down the foundational doctrine in Romans, he layers on additional details about that doctrine or corrective doctrine in the subsequent letters to the Corinthians and Galatians. As some examples:

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

- Paul introduces the amazing analogy of the human body and its members & their functions vs. the local assembly and its members & their offices (Romans 12:4-5). He layers on additional details to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 12:12-24).
- Paul rebukes the Galatians (Galatians 1:6-9) after teaching them the gospel of Christ in the Romans doctrine.

Not saying you can't get value as a Christian not knowing about Biblical adoption or not believing in the importance of Paul's epistles or not going through the curriculum, but many verses and passages only makes sense if you look at it from the perspective of an adopted son or daughter of God.

Seeing it is progressive helps you see what's going on. Another controversial example – we have all heard the 'put on the whole armour of God' (Ephesians 6:11) sermons over the years. The problem is, there are only a very small fraction of Christians worldwide who can do this. What this means is, you have responded positively (understand and believe) and properly (reckon it to be so true you are willing to live your life out of it) to every 'form of doctrine' (Romans 6:17) in Paul's epistles up to that point. The 'forms of doctrine' are the pieces of armour that deliver you from the effects of the suffering of this life (because He is not delivering you from the sufferings themselves). I am not sure my Pastor is even there yet and he knows more about the Bible and how to teach the Bible than anyone I have ever heard before and it is really not close.

Understanding the types of Suffering

There are two types of suffering in the world and Paul talks about both in his letters. They both are introduced in Romans 8 but this is a major theme throughout Paul's letters. The way Paul teaches about suffering is very, very different than the way suffering gets taught in most churches and by most Pastors/Teachers today. There are basically two major types of suffering:

- The first type of suffering is 'the sufferings of this present time' (Romans 8:18). These are the things that happened to us because:
 - we live in a fallen world that is subject to both natural evil (due to the Fall) & moral evil (due to Satan)
 - we're in unredeemed bodies (our spirit and soul have been redeemed but not our physical bodies that have sin in their members and are subject to 'the bondage of corruption' (Romans 8:21))

My pastor jokes the death rate still 100%. These are things that happen to saved people and unsaved people. You have a car wreck. You have a heart attack. Your house is destroyed by fire. You get laid off from your job. You have a conflict with a family member or relative or neighbor. Somebody cuts you off in traffic. Your car has a dead battery or flat tire. It's just the things that happen to everybody and that everybody has to deal with. No one escapes.

- The second type of suffering, Paul introduces in later in the chapter (Romans 8:35), but he doesn't name until till 2 books later - 'the sufferings of Christ' (2 Corinthians 1:5). Israel referred to these as 'the strange woman' (numerous Proverbs references). Basically, this type of suffering is the suffering you experience as you go through the Sonship or godliness education/edification process and you begin to have Christ formed in you. When that happens, there are various types of attacks that potentially come upon you as you are edified unto godliness. Look at this as getting doctrine and to make sure that doctrine is effectually working in you, you may get tested. God allows Satan to test you. It shows both of you whether or not the doctrine is working in you.

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

But God will not allow Satan to test you more than the doctrine you have been through (1 Corinthians 10:13). The word ‘temptation’ in this verse doesn’t mean ‘tempted to sin’, it means ‘tested or tried’. Just like the doctrine is progressive, the attacks are progressive and commensurate.

As we experience the various sufferings that stem from living in this fallen world (Sufferings of this Present Time) and confronting the a

dversary (Sufferings of Christ), we can bring God His greatest glory because we are setting forth, by our godly patient endurance of those sufferings, who the rightful possessor of heaven and earth is! And that is something that is not done when God miraculously intervenes to deliver us from some kind of bad situation.

Here's a list of suffering references in Paul's letters. It's not exhaustive but I started putting it together. Paul definitely didn't preach the prosperity gospel.

The Back Story of the Bible
An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

#	Verse	Suffering Text
1	Romans 5:3	GLORY IN TRIBULATIONS
2	Romans 8:17	SUFFER WITH HIM
3	Romans 8:18	SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME
4	Romans 8:22	THE WHOLE CREATION GROANETH AND TRAUAILETH IN PAIN
5	Romans 8:23	GROAN WITHIN OURSELVES
6	Romans 8:35	TRIBULATION ... DISTRESS ... PERSECUTION ... FAMINE ... NAKEDNESS ... PERIL ... SWORD
7	Romans 8:36	KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG...ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER
8	Romans 12:12	PATIENT IN TRIBULATION
9	1 Corinthians 4:12	BEING PERSECUTED, WE SUFFER IT (SoC)
10	1 Corinthians 10:13	SUFFER ALL THINGS
11	1 Corinthians 12:26	ONE MEMBER SUFFER, ALL THE MEMBERS SUFFER
12	1 Corinthians 15:30-31	I DIE DAILY
13	2 Corinthians 1:4	ALL OUR TRIBULATION
14	2 Corinthians 1:5	THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST ABOUND IN US
15	2 Corinthians 1:6	WE BE AFFLICTED ... IN THE ENDURING OF THE SAME SUFFERINGS
16	2 Corinthians 1:7	PARTAKERS OF THE SUFFERINGS
17	2 Corinthians 1:8	OUR TROUBLE ... WE WERE PRESSED OUT OF MEASURE, ABOVE STRENGTH, INSO MUCH AS WE DESPAIED EVEN OF LIFE
18	2 Corinthians 1:9	SENTENCE OF DEATH IN OUESLVESES
19	2 Corinthians 4:8	TROUBLE...NOT DISTRESSED...PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR
20	2 Corinthians 4:9	PERSECUTED...CAST DOWN
21	2 Corinthians 4:9	BEARING ABOUT IN THE BODY THE DYING OF THE LORD JESUS
22	2 Corinthians 4:11	ALWAY DELIVERED UNTO DEATH
23	2 Corinthians 4:16	OUTWARD MAN PERISH
24	2 Corinthians 4:17	OUR LIGHT AFFLITION
25	2 Corinthians 6:4	IN AFFLICTIONS, IN NECESSITIES, IN DISTRESSES
26	2 Corinthians 6:5	IN STRIPES, IN IMPRISONMENTS, IN TUMULTS, IN LABOURS, IN WATCHINGS, IN FASTINGS
27	2 Corinthians 7:4	EXCEEDING JOYFUL IN ALL OUR TRIBULATION
28	2 Corinthians 7:6	CAST DOWN
29	2 Corinthians 7:15	INWARD AFFLITION
30	2 Corinthians 8:2	A GREAT TRIAL OF AFFLITION ... THEIR DEEP POVERTY
31	2 Corinthians 11:23	STRIPES ... PRISONS ... DEATHS
32	2 Corinthians 11:25	BEATEN...STONED...SHIPRECK..IN THE DEEP
33	Galatians 1:7	SOME THAT TROUBLE YOU
34	Galatians 1:23	PERSECUTED
35	Galatians 3:4	SUFFERED SO MANY THINGS
36	Galatians 5:11	Suffering = SUFFER PERSECUTION
37	Galatians 6:12	SUFFER PERSECUTION
38	Galatians 6:17	I BEAR IN MY BODY THE MARKS OF THE LORD JESUS
39	Philippians 1:16	ADD AFFLICTIONS TO MY BONDS
40	Philippians 1:29	TO SUFFER FOR HIS SAKE
41	Philippians 3:8	FOR WHOM I HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS
42	Philippians 3:10	THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS
43	Philippians 4:12	ABASED...TO BE HUNGRY...SUFFER NEED
44	Philippians 4:14	MY AFFLITION
45	Philippians 4:15	NO CHURCH COMMUNICATED WITH ME AS CONCERNING GIVING AND RECEIVING
46	Philippians 4:17	A GIFT (Paul's description of suffering)
47	Colossians 1:24	THE AFFLICTIONS OF CHRIST
48	1 Thessalonians 1:6	RECEIVED THE WORD IN MUCH AFFLITION
49	1 Thessalonians 2:2	WE HAD SUFFERED ... SHAMEFULLY ENTREATED
50	1 Thessalonians 2:14	SUFFERED LIKE THINGS
51	1 Thessalonians 2:15	PERSECUTED US
52	1 Thessalonians 3:3	THESE AFFLICTIONS
53	1 Thessalonians 3:4	WE SHOULD SUFFER TRIBULATION
54	1 Thessalonians 3:7	OUR AFFLICTION AND DISTRESS
55	2 Thessalonians 1:4	ALL YOUR PERSECUTIONS AND TRIBULATIONS THAT YE ENDURE
56	2 Thessalonians 1:5	FOR WHICH WE ALSO SUFFER
57	2 Thessalonians 1:6	THEM THAT TROUBLE YOU
58	1 Timothy 4:10	SUFFER REPROACH
59	2 Timothy 1:8	PARTAKER OF THE AFFLICTIONS
60	2 Timothy 1:12	I ALSO SUFFER THESE THINGS
61	2 Timothy 2:3	ENDURE HARDNESS
62	2 Timothy 2:9	I SUFFER TROUBLE ... EVEN UNTO BONDS
63	2 Timothy 2:12	IF WE SUFFER, WE SHALL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM
64	2 Timothy 3:1	PERILOUS TIMES SHALL COME
65	2 Timothy 3:10	LONGSUFFERING
66	2 Timothy 3:11	PERSECUTIONS, AFFLICTIONS ... PERSECUTIONS IN ENDURED
67	2 Timothy 3:12	SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION
68	2 Timothy 4:5	ENDURE AFFLICTIONS

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

We believe God had Paul go through so many types of suffering because he is not only an example, he is our example for the body of Christ. The sufferings and his attitude toward them show us what our attitude should be toward them. Even Paul basically says this several times in his letters.

Jesus did His fair share of suffering too. Here's a snippet from my Bible notes.

Hebrews 2:10	IP / Suffering = MAKE ... PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERINGS	<i>Jesus Suffering - He was perfected by the things He suffered as His Father's Son - suffered in every way a man can suffer:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Suffered physical pain on the Cross - nails in His Hands- Suffered at the hands of evil men (the scourging)- Suffered emotional pain (the shame and humiliation)- Suffered temptation/hunger in the 40 days in the wilderness fast- Suffered disappointment - those closest to Him denied Him (Peter)- Falsey accuse Him/Suffered libelous accusations - casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub - attributed His good works to the devil.
Hebrews 2:10	IP / Suffering = MAKE ... PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Suffered setbacks (The Kingdom got postponed)- Suffered rejection (He came to His own received Him not)- Suffered lowering Himself (made lower than the angels)- Suffered lack (Didn't own a home - Matthew 8:20)- Doubted by some of His closest followers (Thomas)- Suffered death at the hands of His enemies- Now, suffering some other things in the DOGG. As we SUFFER WITH HIM, we are being perfected.

Jesus was 'perfected through sufferings' (Hebrews 2:10) just like we believe we will be perfected by life's sufferings. This will happen by grace thinking, godly thinking, and having Christ living His Life in us and having Christ formed in us.

If God didn't put His Hand between the tribulations of life and His only begotten Son, why would we think He would do this for us? He's not but that's because He has a much bigger purpose.

[Why does God allow evil in the world?](#)

We must distinguish between the two types of evil and understand them.

First, is natural evil. This is evil that God allows in the world because of the Fall. You've got different types of natural evil. You've got the evil that comes upon us because we live in unredeemed bodies that have sin in their members that are under the subject of the bondage of corruption. We get old, our eyesight goes bad, we get diseases like cancer and heart disease. It's the law of entropy live and in person.

Natural evil also covers things like natural disasters - tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, etc.

Although we know little about the pre-Fall world, do you get the impression there were natural disasters pre-Fall? So those are basically the two larger categories of natural evil.

Secondly, you have moral evil. This is basically things that happen due to Satan's reign in the world as 'the prince of this world' (John 14:30), and it ties back to his plan of evil and policy of evil. People committing crime, cutting you off in traffic, robbing your home, stealing your credit card, taking your parking spot at church, things like that.

God allows evil in this world and what you would call sin in this world because He wants you to understand and look at and think about sin like He understands and looks at and thinks about sin. What is tough for us to understand is, there's no such thing as a 'little sin' to God. Sin is sin, and we need to learn to hate sin and loathe sin like He hates sin and how he loathes sin. The reason why we need to hate sin and loathe sin like He hates sin and He loathes sin is because just like He gave us free will here on earth, He is going to give us free will in eternity. We need to hate sin and loathe sin to the point that we would never ever consider committing sin in eternity. We don't want the Fall, Round 2. Therefore, He's got to prove to us, or show us the depths of how bad sin is. One of the ways He will do this is at the judgment seat of Christ, where every one of your sins and everybody else's sins will get manifested in

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

front of the whole body of Christ. Everything will come to the surface and it's only after you go through that that you'll see how evil sin is. Once you go through that, you'll never sin in eternity.

[The Creature](#)

This is a term or a concept that you may have never heard much teaching on. The world would define the creature as the universe or the solar systems. The Biblical definition would include:

- the second heaven, and
- 'the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven' (Deuteronomy 4:19; Deuteronomy 7:13)

The first mention of the creature is in Genesis 1:21 where the Bible talks about every creature living and moving. When the average person looks up in the sky at night, they see a bunch of darkness and they see maybe a few stars depending on how close they are to city lights. When an adopted son or daughter looks up at the sky at night, they see something different. They see two things:

- We see the heavens as a living being that is supposed to be living and moving and having functional life, but it has been made 'subject to vanity' (Romans 8:20) by God and put 'under the bondage of corruption' (Romans 8:21) by Satan. It's effectively functionally dead. It's like it's in a coma. We learn that the creature has a will, an expectation, and a hope (8:19-23) and all of those are basically hanging on us becoming the sons and daughters that we need to be to play our part in God's eternal plan and purpose. We/The body of Christ will make the Creature live and move the way God originally intended. We'll be the central nervous system for the creature.
- When we look up at the sky at night, we see there's a lot of darkness and a lot of that darkness is caused by the ungodliness that is in the creature due to all the fallen angels who we will eventually replace. We understand that the government that God put in place currently has a lot of darkness in it. A third of the angels rebelled against God and are still in place as positions in authority up in a creature. We understand that that needs to change and we understand that we're part of that change, we're part of that solution. It is also up to us get prepared here as much as we can so we can be the most useful to God up there.

[Prayer](#)

This may be this the most controversial take. Today, people pray for all sorts of things. They pray for money. They pray for jobs. They pray for healing from sickness and diseases. They pray for all these physical, outward blessings like winning the lottery. They pray for people overseas who suffered a natural disaster that they've never met in places they'll never see. I'm not shooting at this type of prayer. I did it up most of my life until recently. The thing about it is, we don't believe God is working in the outward circumstance today. He's not getting you a job. He's not making you rich. He's not healing your disease. God is doing something greater by putting the power is His grace on display in the inner man of adopted sons and daughters. My Pastor says that prayer is not a grocery list. Prayer is not a to do list you give God to go do and then you shake the dust off your hands and then say, 'OK God, it's up to you now'. That's not how prayer works in this dispensation. If you believe it does, let me ask you this. Have you ever prayed really hard for something, like somebody to get healed of cancer or to recover from some accident and then when they recovered, you praised God and you blessed God and you thanked God? Did that ever happen? Now, let's do the reverse. Did you ever pray really hard for somebody to recover

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

from some disease or some accident? And for whatever reason, God didn't answer your prayer for their healing and recovery. Why was that? The textbook answers are that you didn't have enough faith or you had sin in your life or it just wasn't God's will. That's making God capricious. The truth of the matter is, God is not doing any of that today. Unsaved people recover from accidents and diseases too. Have you ever noticed the number of Pastors and Christians today that say 'God is the God of healing' that are wearing glasses and on prescription medications? This is not understanding what God is doing in this dispensation.

If you look at Paul's prayers, and again, Paul has more prayers in your Bible than anybody else with exception of David, Paul never prayed once for anything in the outward circumstances of life. His prayers are always exclusively inner man issues. (Actually, he may have once as an example of incorrect prayer (2 Corinthians 12:8-11)). When you pray for someone's inner man, you understand something about them and their situation. You use your godly wisdom to determine the doctrine they need, and then you tell them you have been praying for them and tell them the scripture. You remind them of the doctrine that they need to get through whatever situation they are in. My Pastor says 'prayer activates the doctrine'. As examples of this, look at Jesus praying in the garden and Paul's thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:8-11). Both prayed three times. These 3 prayers transformed both of them from wanting God to intervene to enduring the suffering, to doing the will of their Father.

Not saying you can't pray for people's outward circumstances at all, but if you do, you have a responsibility to get involved as a member of His body. That's praying and doing it in His Name. For a simple example, a member of your church lost their job and they need groceries. You as a member of His body and in His Name, take groceries to them as His representative. You are caring for His body. You go get some bags of groceries and give them to that person. You can't just pray 'God, drop two bags of groceries on so-and-so's doorstep'. It doesn't work that way. You are to get involved as a member of His body, as a member of the body of Christ, and in His name, to minister to his body. Once you view prayer this way, it really forces you to change your prayer life. The things that I used to pray for are greatly reduced but there's learning to pray like Paul prays will fill your prayer time back up.

We believe in what is called 'dispensationally correct prayer'. Understanding what dispensation you are living in and praying accordingly. You pray according to what God is doing in that dispensation, praying according to what God's will is at that time. You see it all through the Bible. Some examples:

- David's prayer (1 Samuel 7:18-29) right after Nathan basically told David about the 'Davidic Covenant' (1 Samuel 7:12-17). His prayer acknowledged what God wanted to do.
- Solomon also has a prayer related the covenant that God had with his father (1 Kings 3: 5-9). Both of these prayers had a spirit of humility and prayed for the fulfilment of the covenant because they knew that is what God wanted.
- Solomon is praying about the temple construction and is praying back to God basically what God told his father. He is praying in accordance with the will of his Father.
- Elijah praying for no rain for 3.5 years (1 Kings 17:1). He is praying in accordance with what God was doing in the second course of punishment (Leviticus 26:19). Elijah knows where he is on the timeline and what God is doing. He's not just dreaming stuff up.
- Daniel knows the 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11) is about over, and he thinks he is at the end of the 5 courses of punishment (Leviticus 26:40-42). He prays to God and God gives him the 70-week prophecy (Daniel 9). Notice his contrite heart through the prayer. We have sinned, we have not

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

obeyed, etc. This is what Israel was supposed to do under the law when they got off track – repent and turn to the Lord (Daniel 9).

- Israel had specific times to pray (Psalm 55:17) and prayed in a specific place (Isaiah 56:7; Psalm 116:13-19). Members of the body of Christ can pray anytime and anywhere, as much as we want.

Today, people pull verses out of Israel's program for their prayers. Here are examples of 'dispensationally incorrect prayer'. Notice all of these, except Paul's incorrect prayer, are from Books to Israel, not the body of Christ. All these verses are to the children of Israel who were under the performance system of the law, where God was dealing in the outward circumstances of their lives.

- People incorrectly believe that God will intervene if they confess their sins. Say that if you have sin then God is not going to hear you (Psalm 66:18).
- People incorrectly believe that God will intervene if they confess their sins. Say that if you have sin then God is not going to hear you. Their sins were remitted, not done away with because the Thing that does away with our sins hadn't taken place yet (Isaiah 59:2).
- People incorrectly believe that God will intervene if they need health or their wounds healed (Jeremiah 30:17).
 - Read the rest of the verse and realize he is talking about Zion/Israel/Jerusalem. Read earlier in the chapter and get the time element (tribulation-v7 and kingdom-v9).
- People incorrectly believe that God will intervene if they need money (Malachi 3:10).
- People incorrectly believe that God will intervene if they ask (Matthew 7:7-8; James 4:2).
- People incorrectly believe that God will intervene if they have enough faith (Matthew 17:20; Luke 17:6; Hebrews 11:6).
- People incorrectly believe that God will intervene if they ask, believing (Matthew 21:12).
- People incorrectly believe that God will intervene if they keep on asking (Luke 11:5-9).
- Where we got in the habit of asking 'in Jesus' Name'. Really means for Jesus' sake (John 14:12-14).
- Where Paul tells the story of where he tried to pray like he used to and God corrected him (1 Corinthians 12:8-11).
- 'You didn't receive because you didn't ask' or 'You asked but didn't receive because it was a selfish ask' (James 4:3).
- Finally, and these may be fighting words – the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). This is a prayer for the believing remnant in the day of wrath:
 - 'thy kingdom come': You are not looking for a kingdom, you are looking to restore the creature. This is the next thing that Israel was looking for after the day of wrath, the kingdom.
 - 'in earth, as it is in heaven': They are praying for things on earth to be like they are in heaven. Again, you have been raptured out by this time.
 - 'our daily bread': They can't transact because they didn't take the mark of the beast. God will feed them like He did with Israel in the wilderness (manna from heaven).
- Today people pray what is God's will for my life? Who should I marry? Should I take this job? Where should I live? Should I buy this house? Not shooting at anybody, but to us those are not prayer issues. Those are Sonship issues. Those are simply answered by learning to think like God and developing the wisdom that he wants you to have. When you get the four decision-making

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

skills (Romans 12:3-15:7) effectively working in you, you can answer those yourself by the ability to think like God.

The Importance of Grace Thinking

Another very important concept, which may be controversial, is thinking with grace thinking. We believe you must understand that, just like you can't provide your own justification, you can't provide your own sanctification. Most people think I'll will let Jesus save me and then I'll produce all these good works on my own. Unfortunately, that is doing things out of the energy of your flesh and all of that will be burned up at the judgment seat of Christ. This is producing fruit unto death (Romans 6:21). The harsh reality is, anything you do by trying to follow the law or some preacher's version of the law or some Christianized version of the law or things that you think in your mind God wants you to do, are all done in the energy of your flesh and will be burned up at the judgment seat. The only way you produce good works that God can accept and you will effectively 'get credit for' at the judgment seat is if you understand who you've been made to be in Christ and you live out of that. That's the only way because when you do that, you yourself are not producing the good works. Jesus Christ is producing those good works in you and through you by living His Life in you. That's the only way. This is the only way you can live for God. This is one of several very sobering things I have come to believe. This covered in the 'walking after the Spirit' portions of your Bible:

- Exhortation (Romans 6:1-2)
- Doctrine (Romans 6:3-10)
- Application (Romans 6:11-13)
- Instruction in Righteousness (Romans 8:1-13)

Godliness

When you ask someone 'what is godliness?', most people would say, 'oh, someone that goes to church or someone that sings in the choir or somebody that gives to the poor'. That's not godliness like the Bible defines it. Godliness, if you look at the term itself, means 'God likeness'. The word 'like', like a lot of words, has had its meaning really changed over the course of the last 400 years. Like means an identical or exact match. It gets watered down in today's vernacular. Godliness is basically three things:

1. it's learning to **think** like God so
2. you can live **like** God wants you to live, and
3. once you do those two things that qualifies you to **labor** with him both now, in His operations on earth, and in eternity, out in the creature and into the 'ages to come' (Ephesians 2:7)

So, godliness to us is a principal thing. Understanding how to think like God, so we can make decisions and live out of those decisions like an adopted son or daughter of God, and then we can labor with Him and His operations on earth and play a role in fulfilling His eternal plan and purpose in eternity. As Paul teaches the various 'forms of doctrine' (Romans 6:17), you can see him teaching this godliness pattern. First, he'll teach godly thinking (sometimes correcting your ungodly thinking FIRST), then godly living, and then godly labor. As an adopted son or daughter, you are not given a list of rules (like the children of Israel under the law and the 613 commandments), you are taught to think like God so you can handle any situation in your eternal 'vocation' (Ephesians 4:1). Here are a couple examples but they are all throughout Romans once you begin the education in chapter 12.

The Back Story of the Bible
An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

Romans 12:3-8

- Paul corrects their ungodly thinking: 'not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think' (Romans 12:3)
- Godly thinking: 'but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith' (Romans 12:3)
- Godly living: Romans 12:4-5
- Godly labor: Romans 12:6-8

Romans 12:9-10:

9 Let love be without dissimulation (exhortation). Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good (godly thinking).

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love (godly living); in honour preferring one another (godly labor);

Romans 13:12-14

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand (godly thinking): let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light (godly living).

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying (godly labor).

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof (godly labor).

We know that imitation is not the way because the capacity/power to imitate is vested in the one who imitates without necessarily shared the motives of the one being imitated, who remains passive and impersonal to the act of imitation. There are well-meaning preachers who don't know any better than reading something in the Bible and say well, this is the way it ought to be. The only way you can do this in your flesh is try and imitate it. But doing it in your flesh is not the way to do it. You're just doing the best you can. He doesn't want your best, He wants His life in us. If you are imitating Jesus, it is not the power of His grace working in you, it's you just trying to imitate. Can you see how hallow this shell would be? This is not the same thing as Christ living His Life in you. Him living His Life in you would not be passive and impersonal, it would be Him actually doing it through you.

Godliness is the direct consequence of God's activity in man (this was the Mystery)-that is what 'God manifest in the flesh' (1 Timothy 3:16) means. Imitating righteousness was not a mystery. Men have been doing that since they've been on the planet. This is different than us trying to do the best we can - 'I know this is what the Bible says I should do so I guess I'll do it but I don't like it'. Is this godly? No. Godliness is what transforms our thinking about that. If the life of Christ is not being lived in us, we are perpetuating the pagan practice of religion and doing it all in the energy of our flesh. If it is you doing it, it's self-righteousness, which is saying to God 'I don't need you'. What nation does this remind you of?

Man was created in such a way that he could bear the image of God without God Himself becoming visible. It was not man's physical form, but it was his capacity to behave that was designed to be the means through which God intended to express His nature and character. This is the activity of God in the

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

man. God behaving in us and God behaving through us. God's behavior is the cause, the life of Christ is the cause and we are the effect.

If we are doing the right thing, why is God not satisfied with that? Because:

- when we do so, we eliminate God (or the need for God) from the process of righteousness
- only God has the right to be source of His own 'godliness' - we don't have that right

Understanding the two Inheritances

In the first part of the passage in your Bible that establishes you as an adopted son or daughter (Romans 8:16-25), God talks about children of God and sons of God. He also talks about two inheritances. Some churches teach that these inheritances are the same. Some churches teach that all Christians get both. We don't adhere to either of these beliefs. We believe there are two inheritances, which are the 'heir of God' inheritance (Romans 8:17), and the 'joint-heir with Christ' inheritance (Romans 8:17), are different and there are basically different qualifications for both. To qualify for 'the heir of God' inheritance you simply have to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, have saving faith, and become a member of the body of Christ. The 'joint-heir with Christ' inheritance is different. It's tough to put it in a nutshell or sentence but it's basically based on the level of godliness or edification you have built up in you when you are raptured it out or when you die. The heir of God inheritance is unconditional. There's nothing you can do or nothing anybody can do to change that. The joint heir with Christ inheritance is very conditional. Here are some more details from my Bible Study notes.

<p>Romans 8:17</p> <p>MoG - 15 of 18 - (EP) 17 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.</p> <p>Heir of God = HEIRS OF GOD vs.</p> <p>OF GOD / MoG - 16 of 18 - (EP) Joint Heir</p> <p>as a child/children of God</p> <p>Joint Heir</p> <p>out of justification/just being saved (IN Christ)</p> <p>with Christ = JOINT</p> <p>produced/received automatically by Jesus Christ in His DBR</p> <p>HEIRS WITH CHRIST /</p> <p>given by grace (no works)</p> <p>Suffering = SUFFER</p> <p>all the same/every saint receives</p> <p>WITH HIM</p> <p>can't lose reward</p> <p>no works involved</p> <p>all the same</p> <p>all receive, even if they don't want Sonship (unconditional)</p> <p>glory</p> <p>with your Father 3. the right response to SoPT and SoC</p> <p>one-time deal & set portion - once divided, it's done</p> <p>benefit of</p> <p>expands, the greater the inheritance! Not just a portion that comes out of the business, but the whole of the business reflects this inheritance. Because your joint-heir inheritance is directly tied to the Father's Business, your joint heir inheritance will continue to increase (in every respect) forever! (For eternity)</p>	<p>JOINT-HEIR WITH CHRIST</p> <p>as a son of God/son or daughter</p> <p>out of Sanctification (Christ IN You)</p> <p>produced by the effectual working of the Word of grace</p> <p>(qualifying you to do the things in your sanctified life to produce a JH/Suffer with Him)</p> <p>not every saint receives/not all the same/these are different/varying</p> <p>can lose reward</p> <p>Suffering involved</p> <p>not all the same</p> <p>not all receive (conditional)</p> <p>enhanced glory</p> <p>In direct proportion to: 1. your education as a son 2. your ability to labor</p> <p>eternal & ever growing - everything the Business produces you enjoy the</p> <p>all I have is thine (Luke 15:31) - the longer the business goes and the more the business does and the greater the business expands, the greater the inheritance! Not just a portion that comes out of the business, but the whole of the business reflects this inheritance. Because your joint-heir inheritance is directly tied to the Father's Business, your joint heir inheritance will continue to increase (in every respect) forever! (For eternity)</p>
<p>Romans 8:17</p> <p>MoG - 15 of 18 - (EP) 17 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.</p> <p>The Mechanics of the Doctrine</p> <p>We are made to be:</p> <p>Hiers of God: Automatic</p> <p>Joint-Heirs with Christ: conditional</p> <p>One the basis of:</p> <p>Being a child of God</p> <p>Us Suffering with Christ</p> <p>In connection with:</p> <p>Our justification</p> <p>Our sanctification</p> <p>Which is the product of:</p> <p>Saving Faith/Us IN Christ</p> <p>Edification/Christ's Life) IN YOU/Us</p> <p>Producing the result of:</p> <p>Our Exaltation IN Christ</p> <p>Our being glorified with Christ</p> <p>Which is:</p> <p>Our inheritance</p> <p>The reward of our inheritance</p> <p>IN CHRIST = HEIR OF GOD INHERITANCE</p> <p>CHRIST IN YOU = JOINT-HEIR INHERITANCE</p> <p>See both categories of sufferings but you don't get a title for both of them. They are described very differently.</p> <p>But notice the doctrinal order; Paul says, you've got to understand the sufferings of this present time first. We need to be equipped to handle the sufferings of this present time first and then you can go on to handle the sufferings of Christ.</p>	<p>The Mechanics of the Doctrine</p> <p>We are made to be:</p> <p>Hiers of God: Automatic</p> <p>Joint-Heirs with Christ: conditional</p> <p>One the basis of:</p> <p>Being a child of God</p> <p>Us Suffering with Christ</p> <p>In connection with:</p> <p>Our justification</p> <p>Our sanctification</p> <p>Which is the product of:</p> <p>Saving Faith/Us IN Christ</p> <p>Edification/Christ's Life) IN YOU/Us</p> <p>Producing the result of:</p> <p>Our Exaltation IN Christ</p> <p>Our being glorified with Christ</p> <p>Which is:</p> <p>Our inheritance</p> <p>The reward of our inheritance</p> <p>IN CHRIST = HEIR OF GOD INHERITANCE</p> <p>CHRIST IN YOU = JOINT-HEIR INHERITANCE</p> <p>See both categories of sufferings but you don't get a title for both of them. They are described very differently.</p> <p>But notice the doctrinal order; Paul says, you've got to understand the sufferings of this present time first. We need to be equipped to handle the sufferings of this present time first and then you can go on to handle the sufferings of Christ.</p>

If you don't think there are two inheritances, then you don't have anything to worry about at the judgment seat of Christ.

In an effort to tie some things together, Paul will say the same thing in different ways. For example:

- 'they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible' (1 Corinthians 9:25)
- 'we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen' (2 Corinthians 4:18)

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

- 'for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal' (2 Corinthians 4:18)
- 'I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling' (Philippians 3:14)
- 'seek those things which are above' (Colossians 3:1)
- 'Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth' (Colossians 3:2)

Paul is correcting man's or our flesh's godly thinking. Don't look at your present circumstances because God is not changing those. Instead, look at things that are 'not seen' (fruit unto righteousness), 'things above' (your position in the heavenly places), 'high calling' (called to help fulfill God's eternal plan and purpose), and an 'incorruptible' crown (get the doctrine working in you to qualify the pieces of armor to exchange for crowns when the battle is over).

Grace and its many facets

Attending what would probably be considered a Grace church means you put a lot of emphasis on grace. Paul says not once but twice in successive verses we 'are not under the law, but under grace' (Romans 6:14-15). When you read Paul's letters, this is a theme he constantly harps on. My pastor says grace is like a diamond. You look at it from different perspectives, and you see different perspective, and it looks different. There are different aspects or facets of grace. Grace can be simply defined as 'God's goodness'. Most people understand the concept of grace as a free gift. Grace also is many other things. Grace is a standing, it is a power that we live out of and our day-to-day lives. grace is a dispensation, grace is a method of giving. Here's a list I pulled from my notes:

- Grace is the greatest power God possesses. It is the power of God to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
- Grace is the message of a dispensational change (Acts 13:43)
- Grace is the edifying truth of the doctrine (Acts 20:32)
- Grace is the power to produce a peace (Romans 1:7 and beginning of every one of Paul's letters)
- Grace is the goodness of God (Romans 2:4)
- Grace is a free gift (Romans 3:24; Romans 4:4; Romans 5:15; Romans 5:18; Romans 11:6; Ephesians 2:8)
- Grace is a standing (Romans 5:2)
- Grace is the desire and power to do the will of God (Romans 5:20)
- Grace is a dispensation (Romans 6:14)
- Grace is giving after a godly sort (2 Corinthians 8:7)
- Grace is a willingness to sacrifice for a godly purpose (2 Corinthians 8:9)
- Grace is the outworking of the doctrine (2 Corinthians 9:8)
- Grace is the power of the doctrine to produce a patient endurance (2 Corinthians 12:9)

The progression or maturation of a son

There is a progression or maturation of a son that you can see in your Bible. Parts are very easy to see. Parts may be difficult to see. My Pastor says, and I have learned, the more you read and understand the Bible, the more you see, and understand things you didn't see before. I think this is one of those cases.

The Back Story of the Bible

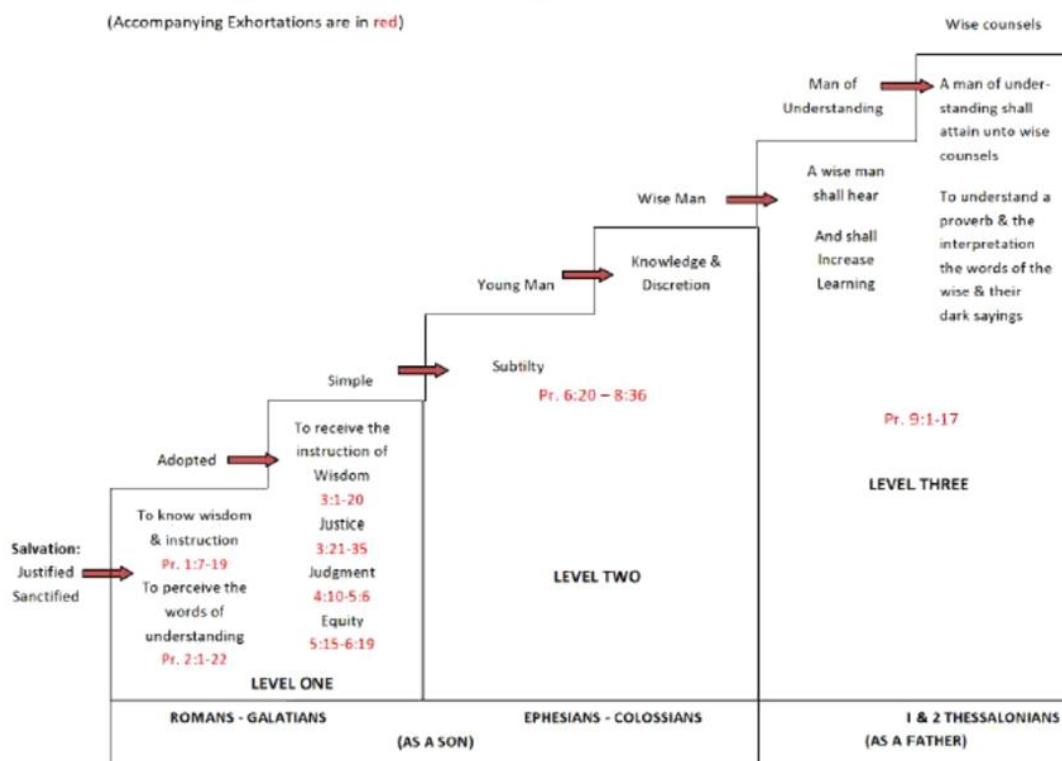
An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

There's what you could say is a table of contents for the training of a son (Proverbs 1:2-6). This table of contents applies to both Israel's program and the body of Christ. The doctrine for both are very different. You can see the progression of the son in this passage. Basically, the progression is:

- Child of God
- Adopted Son (or daughter of God)
- Simple Son
- Young Man
- Wise Man
- Man of Understanding
- Attain unto wise counsels

Here's a chart from my church where you can visualize it.

The Sonship Curriculum (Godly Edification)



Section 4: What the future holds

Out in Eternity

Most people believe when they get to heaven that they'll be sitting around on clouds, drinking lemonade, while they listen to some cherubim play a harp. Or they think they're going to cast their crowns before God and bow down before Him and worship Him. And then 10 minutes later, they'll get back up, put their crowns back on and then cast their crowns down before Him and bow down before him and worship Him. Then 10 minutes later, do the same thing on into eternity. We believe both of

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

these are incorrect views of eternity. In fact, does doing either of those sound like fun for eternity? We believe based on the original design of man that we will have jobs. Before the Fall, God put Adam to work:

- God gave Adam 'dominion' (Genesis 1:26) over the earth and was told to 'subdue it' (Genesis 1:28)
- God told Adam to 'dress' and 'keep' (Genesis 2:15) the garden
- God had Adam name all the animals (Genesis 2:19)

So even in the brief glimpse we have in the pre-Fall world, you can see Adam starting to labor with his Father just like an adopted son or daughter would. Today, in a post-Fall world, we have a different view of work. Man was designed to work but work in eternity will not be viewed like we view work today.

Paul calls our job a vocation (Ephesians 4:1), which means it's more than a job. It's a job that you're called to and we're supposed to answer that call. And it's kind of a big deal because we believe our jobs will help God fulfill His eternal plan and purpose. What's amazing about that is God doesn't need us, but He is giving us the opportunity, the honor and privilege to participate in that. Here's some of the things that will happen after the rapture or what Paul calls in 'the blessed hope' (Titus 2:13).

- We'll either get raptured out, or as part of the dead in Christ that will rise first (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- We'll go to the judgment seat and we'll get judged based on our works in this life. There's much more to talk about here because we believe the vast majority of Christians today will have their works burned up (including most of mine).
- After the judgment seat:
 - We will be assigned positions, basically our jobs in eternity, hopefully in positions in authority, taking the place of one of the fallen angels.
 - We'll get our glorified body, not only because this body will decay away, this body will not survive in outer space.
- One of our first jobs will be working with the good angels to launch a military campaign to kick the fallen angels out and cast them down to the earth (Revelation 12:9).
- Another job and I'm not positive on the sequence in the order on all this, but another job will be working with the good angels to execute wrath on the earth. Taking those store houses or those treasures of snow and hail (Job 38:22) and unleashing them as part of God's wrath on the earth. Why do you think God has them?
- I believe both these happen during the last half of Daniel's 70th week.
- During 'the times of the restitution of all things' (Acts 3:21), we will undo all the impediments that were made to the creature since Day 2 of creation.
 - We will remove the things that God did to make the creature 'subject to vanity' (Romans 8:20).
 - We will remove the things that Satan did to put the creature under 'the bondage of corruption' (Romans 8:21).
 - Given what Satan did to the land before Israel came in to pollute that land with the demonic line of giants and all the false gods, you know he's doing the same type of things out in the creature. There's no telling what all will need to do or undo to get the creature back to a point that it can perform functionally. It's unknown how long it'll take

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

because we don't know how much needs to be undone, and how many members of the body of Christ will be there to help the good angels do it so it's a big unknown.

- We'll work on restoring the connections that God disabled the second day of creation so the creature in the earth can operate the way they were originally designed to operate. This ties into 'judge(ing) the world' (1 Corinthians 6:2) and 'judge(ing) angels' (1 Corinthians 6:3). The former is related to getting the earth to talk to the creature. The latter is related to getting the creature to talk to itself.
- When all the enemies are destroyed, Jesus will deliver up the Kingdom to the Father. He will then go to the heavenly places to rule with us.
- During the Kingdom/Restitution of all things, Jesus is reigning on the earth. But at the end of that, He'll deliver up the Kingdom to the Father, He'll ascend into the heavenly places and we will be seated with Him in the heavenly places in the dispensation of the fulness of times.
- Then, in 'the dispensation of the fullness of times' (Ephesians 1:10), once the creature can operate as it was originally designed, we'll be raised 'up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 2:6). Raised up is talking about being placed in positions of authority (or fallen angel positions) and made to sit together (not sitting around a table, sitting on a throne of authority in Christ's Kingdom). Now, we could be sitting around a table as part of the divine council, but that's beyond the scope of this document, yet a fascinating study. Another possible Appendix item.

The local assembly

Understanding the purpose of the local assembly and how it is suppose to operate is a very key concept. How we operate as a local assembly is like a training ground for how we will operate in eternity. Paul spends a great deal of time on the different aspects of godly love and being of one mind and one accord as believers. You can see him correcting the Corinthians in this area multiple times. We will effectively be the central nervous system of the creature, and we have to have all these aspects of godliness/charity working in us to be successful. How we think about the body of believers collectively, how we think about the believers individually, getting that right will help us operate in eternity in the creature.

The local assembly is one of God's divine institutions. It's something that God created for His purpose, and it can't be changed or improved upon. The local assembly is basically a microcosm of the corporate body of Christ and the body of Christ is basically an analogy for the creature and the positions in the creature. When I say creature, I don't mean the sun and the moon and the stars version or perspective of the creature, I mean that all the host of heaven perspective of the creature, when we take our places or our positions in the creature in the dispensation of the fullness of times. We will be bringing functional life back to the creature we will be operating that creature in eternity. We need to operate out of godly love and wisdom. We need to value and esteem the other members of the assembly for what they do in their contribution. We realize that everybody in the assembly has an office to do, an office to perform, and they've been 'given the measure of faith' (Romans 12:3) to perform that office. And just like God is counting on us to perform our office, He is counting on everyone to perform their office. This develops a godly love for other members of the local assembly, because we realize that they are fulfilling a function in the operation of God. Godly love is not a feeling or an emotion like a lot of people feel love today. Not saying you can't have feelings or emotions for your love for God or for your love for Him saving you, that's fine. Godly love & charity is basically learning to value & esteem things that God values & esteem

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

for the SAME reasons He does. That last part is very important. And it is also almost as important to learn to not value and esteem the things that He really doesn't care about. Note to me and sports in general.

Section 5: Conclusion

Who else teaches this?

This is one of my Pastor's favorite questions...LOL. His response is the apostle Paul. And then when they give them a look like that's not what they're looking for and he knows that, he goes Jesus Christ, who taught it to Paul (Galatians 1:12), knowing that that's still not the answer they're looking for. Other verses say that Paul received it by direct revelation of the mystery from God (Ephesians 3:3).

People mistakenly believe that there's safety in numbers. If they go to a big church like Joel Osteen's, that's safe. It's got to be the correct teaching, right? There's safety in numbers, right? Bible history suggests that may be a flawed assumption.

- Some estimates put the earth's population at the Flood between 19-21 million people. There were eight people that were worthy of being saved at that time.
- At the tower of Babel, there was no one worthy of saving, and God basically consigned all the world over the adversary.
- During Jesus' earthly ministry, we read about 5,000 being fed and we get these visions of all of Israel following Him around. But estimates put the population of Israel at about 2.5 million people at that time. As you read farther in the gospels, you can see how most of them fell away. Even his disciples in the garden of Gethsemane, and then Peter denying him 3 times. The other side of this coin is the Pharisees and Sadducees, who had gotten the nation so off track during the 400 years of silence. In the end, the masses fell behind the religious leaders in Israel, not Jesus.

People want to believe there's safety in numbers, but we don't believe the Bible supports that. We choose to believe what the Bible says, not what some man on TV says or what some popular church says to compromise the Truth for the sake of nickels and noses.

The fact that we believe...

- Your Sonship life should be the most important thing in your life. You can have a lot of 'top priorities' but it is the top of the top. The 'evil man' (numerous Proverbs references) and 'the course of this world' (Ephesians 2:2) will try and dictate how you spend your time. You will have to constantly evaluate how you spend your time and you will discover the things you care about your heavenly Father really doesn't care about.
- Pursuing Sonship and being edified unto godliness means a lifetime of Bible study, getting as far along in the curriculum as you possibly can and trying to live out of that to the extent you can. And it is not hopping around the Bible reading the most popular verses and claiming them even though they are not written to you. It is going through Paul's letters verse by verse, going back in the Bible to interpret terms and phrases as well as looking at the numerous O.T. scriptures he quotes.
- You are going to suffer in this life due to the natural and moral evil in the world and God is not stopping that. God is not working in our outward circumstances today. He is doing something

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

greater in your inner man. We recognize this and live out of grace (or at least try). Paul calls this 'the sufferings of this present time' (Romans 8:17).

- You are going to suffer incrementally more as you pursue being edified unto godliness with the goal of having Christ formed in you. Paul refers this as 'the sufferings of Christ' (2 Corinthians 1:5). You will encounter the 'strange woman' (numerous Proverbs references) and Satan's policies of evil to either get you to quit or get discouraged and complain.
- Your prayer list is not a grocery list or a 'to do' list for God. Praying to God won't get you money, health, a spouse, a winning lottery ticket, etc. Prayer in this dispensation involves what God is doing in your inner man. Prayer activates the doctrine and spurs you to get involved in serving His body and/or laboring with your heavenly Father in His operations on earth.

...is not exactly a 'How to win friends and influence people' approach to growing a big church.

Unfortunately, most Christians can barely sit through a 20-minute sermon that lightly touches on 1-3 verses, much less spending hours and hours parsing a single verse. For example, I believe I have been watching videos on Romans 13:12 for 4 months now. It's an extremely critical verse where you have to go back through the Bible and understand 'light' & 'darkness' and 'day & 'night' and 'truth' & 'untruth'. It is amazing to see the contention here between God and the adversary laid out on the entire Biblical timeline.

Wow! If you made it this far, you are a trooper. I hope you have your list of the things you disagree with. Now it is time to get out your Bible and send me back the verses that refute parts of this. Bible verses, not 'I was taught this' or 'my Pastor said this'. Just what the Book says. I really want to understand where this is off.

Appendix (not developed – look at as under construction)

[Giving to the Poor](#)

This is another somewhat controversial take. I'm not saying that giving to the poor is bad, but even lost people give to the poor. They're a couple things you have to remember when they talk about giving to the poor in your Bible.

First, let's go back during the gospels and Jesus earthly ministry. They were preaching the kingdom was at hand. People who knew their scriptures realized that the day of wrath and then the kingdom was next on the timeline. Remember, if you are a member of the believing remnant, when the day of wrath happens, you're going need to flee into the mountains, don't go back to get a coat or anything. You've got little time left to flee when that happens. So if you hear that message and you believe that message and you think about your revenue producing assets like land and livestock, they really don't do you a whole lot of good when you are hiding in the mountains. So based on that, they sold all those things because they weren't going to do them any good when they were fleeing to the mountains. They believed it was only a matter of time. What they didn't know is that God, in his 'much longsuffering' (Romans 9:22), even though the world deserved His wrath because it had reached a level of ungodliness that was worthy of God's wrath, God instead brought in the mystery program for the dispensation of Gentile grace which was also His ace in the hole, His hidden way to reconcile back the heavenly places to Himself. This is why Paul took money back to the saints at Jerusalem.

The Back Story of the Bible

An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

Second, in Israel's program, fasting and giving to the poor is almost like a hat tip to those members of the believing remnant out in the tribulation, who successfully fled into the mountains. They didn't take the mark. Both of those are good things, but the bad things are they don't have the ability to transact and they can't buy food or clothes. So now they're poor and hungry. This is why Jews fast and give to the poor. It's acknowledgment of what the believing remnant will experience out in Daniel's 70th week.

[The Mystery and its components](#)

Paul uses the word 'mystery' several times in his epistles. There are other references to 'mystery' in other parts of your Bible that are not talking about the mystery that Paul is talking about.

There are component parts to the Mystery.

- Component 1 (Romans 11:25): Israel has suffered blindness in part until God is finished with Israel. God has temporarily interrupted His program with Israel and is working with Gentiles but will resume Israel's program at some point.
- Component 2 (Romans 16:25): It is part of our establishment (the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery [overarching mystery component]) as the body of Christ.
- Component 3 (1 Corinthians 15:51): 'The blessed hope' (Titus 2:13)/the resurrection for members of the body of Christ. There is a catching away and at that time, we'll get a glorified body.
- Component 4 (Colossians 1:25-28) – 'Christ in you, the hope of glory. This is the heart of the mystery – that we might have Christ formed in us which brings God glory because if our practical sanctification is working, it is because what God (all 3 Members of the Godhead) has done, not what we have done. Doing so allows us to be presented "perfect" in our practical sanctification, just as we have been made "blameless" in our positional sanctification in Christ. The only way to bring our functional sanctification up to the level of our positional sanctification is:
 - to have a positional sanctification (Father),
 - to have an inspired word to generate that practice in us (Spirit), and
 - by Christ actively living His life in us (Son).
- Component 5 (Romans 1:16-3:26) The gospel of Christ - 2 parts:
 1. Saved by grace
 2. Paul's gospel (The Death, Burial, and Resurrection)
- Component 6 (Ephesians 3:6) – The body of Christ - 3 parts:
 1. 'fellow-heirs'
 2. 'the same body'
 3. 'partakers of His promise'
- Component 7 (Ephesians 3:8) –'the unsearchable riches of Christ'
 - Includes the Mercies of God (Romans 3-6), spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3-14).
 - The great commission for the body of Christ:
 - 'the fellowship of the mystery' (Ephesians 3:9) - to men
 - 'the manifold wisdom of God' (Ephesians 3:10) - 'to principalities and powers'
- Component 8 (1 Timothy 3:16) –'the mystery of godliness'
 - Take an unredeemed body and manifest Jesus Christ through it

The Back Story of the Bible
An Overview of the Fundamental Concepts for an Adopted Son or Daughter

Paul's Essential Doctrines

P

Genesis 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.