

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

HEIRS

Romans 8:17 “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.”

Yesterday's devotion centered around the fact that the Holy Spirit has brought about through Jesus Christ's redemptive work God adopting you as His son or daughter. This status places you into a new family, namely the family of God. And mention was then made in the words of Galatians 4:17 by this status you have become an “heir” of your heavenly Father's estate.

Becoming an heir has great significance for you. In your new status as an adopted child of God He invites you to step more fully into His grace and mercy . He invites you to live your life in your new status in all that you bearing His name entails. When at your baptism you were symbolically marked with the cross over your forehead and heart this set you apart as one reconciled by Jesus to your heavenly Father, marked you with your new adopted name and placed you into your new family, a child of your heavenly Father. *

With your new identity received through your baptism, you not only were named with God's name, your complete life focus was completely changed so your words and behavior became one of reverencing and worshipping your heavenly Father. God gave you His name and blessed you with an assured future into eternity. You would not die because of your sins. You will live throughout all eternity because Jesus Christ now lives in you. *

Everything you now do as God's child you do in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to your Heavenly Father for sending His Son to bear the punishment for your sins. Not only did your heavenly Father do this, He also accepts the holy life and sinlessness of Jesus as your very own. In your Father's heart you are no longer a sinner but a saint. *

Your inheritance is secure. God's last will and testament is that you will not perish but receive the gift of everlasting life. You are His heir. He has bequeathed to you the gift of heaven for Jesus' sake.

*These three paragraphs are a paraphrase of page 202 in the New Edition of Luther's Large Catechism.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, lead and guide me daily in my status as adopted into my heavenly Father's family. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain:

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. Refrain:

(Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873 Public Domain)

Blessed Assurance

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine!
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light,
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest;

O what a fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine!
 vi - sions of rap - ture now burst on my sight;
 I in my Sav - ior am hap - py and blest,

Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God,
 an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove
 watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove,

born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

ASSURANCE

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song,

prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;

this is my sto - ry, this is my song,

prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.