



**Galatians 4:4-6**  
New International Version

But when the time arrived that was set by God the Father, God sent his Son, born among us of a woman, born under the conditions of the law so that he might redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law. Thus we have been set free to experience our rightful heritage. You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, “Papa! Father!” Doesn’t that privilege of intimate conversation with God make it plain that you are not a slave, but a child? And if you are a child, you’re also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance. Gal. 4:4-6 (Msg)

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through **the** glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

**Romans 6:4**

Adoption was one of the few ways a slave could come into the *patria potestas*, the power of the father.

**Come this Easter Morning to be shaken from your conviction that nothing wonderful can happen in your life.**



# Sermon Notes

## THE BAPTISM ADVANTAGE

### **Why should we remember our Baptism?**

#### **The Thrill of ADOPTION: “Father!”**

“Adoption is the legal process by which a person leaves his own family and enters the family of another.”

“Baptism is faith in action.” ~ Watchman Nee

#### **The Challenge of a Family**

Carry the Family Name: **Christian** (at the name of Jesus...)

“A Christian is a keyhole through which other folk see God.” R Gibson

Reflect the Family Values: **Humility Gratitude & Service**,

Fulfill the Family Mission: **Impact** the World

#### **The Confidence of “I AM”**

“‘I am baptized!’ Apparently Martin Luther, the great 16th century figure of the reformation used to take great comfort from these words. When it seemed to him that the whole church had left the precepts of the Gospel, when he was under scrutiny from Church officials as to the truth of his beliefs, when his life was under threat and when he suffered self doubt he would boldly claim, ‘I am baptized.’” Philip Gill, Anglican Priest

# LIVING WORD

## What is baptism?

- i. Baptism is gift, a covenant initiated by God, to be received joyfully.
- ii. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward spiritual reality. (Gal 3:26-27)
- iii. Baptism is an invitation to lifelong discipleship. (parents, teachers, church)

The human mind explaining baptism is like a harmonica interpreting Beethoven: the music is too majestic for the instrument. No scholar or saint can fully appreciate what this moment means in heaven. Any words on baptism, including these, must be seen as human efforts to understand a holy event. Our danger is to swing to one of two extremes: we make baptism either too important or too unimportant. Either we deify it or we trivialize it. One can see baptism as the essence of the gospel or as irrelevant to the gospel. Both sides are equally perilous. One person says, “I am saved because I was baptized.” The other says, “I am saved so I don’t need to be baptized.” The challenge is to let the pendulum stop somewhere between the two viewpoints. This is done by placing it where it should be: at the foot of the cross. Baptism is like a precious jewel—set apart by itself, it is nice and appealing but has nothing within it to compel. But place baptism against the backdrop of our sin and turn on the light of the cross, and the jewel explodes with significance. Baptism at once reveals the beauty of the cross and the

darkness of sin. As a stone has many facets, baptism has many sides: cleansing, burial, resurrection, the death of the old, and the birth of the new. Just as the stone has no light within it, baptism has no inherent power. But just as the stone refracts the light into many colors, so baptism reveals the many facets of God’s grace.

"God gives us just enough to seek him, and never enough to fully find Him. To do more would inhibit our freedom, and our freedom is very dear to God." — Ron Hansen

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;