

(Romans 8:14-18, NIV84)

Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 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. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Admittedly, it is easy to become fearful these days. With the dire predictions and forecasts of medical experts and the media's constant hype, the underlying message comes through loud and clear: BE AFRAID!

Recall the disciples when they were with Jesus on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was sleeping in the back of the boat when suddenly a storm blew up and the waves were so furious that they were sweeping over the boat. The disciples were terrified, so they woke Jesus and said: "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" But Jesus calmly replied: "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?"

Did the disciples really think that Jesus would allow them to drown while He was with them in the boat? How ridiculous! Likewise for us, is Jesus any less with us than He was with them? Indeed not. Our Savior and Redeemer has a vested interest in us; He's bought us with His own blood. "Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea," "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:2, 1).

Striving for fearlessness with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

April 24

Inheriting the Father's House

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:4

One of the most winning and appealing, as well as one of the most significant, aspects of Scripture is the informal way in which the entire story of salvation is woven within the framework of common everyday experiences in the family circle.

Our Father in heaven, in whose hands are all the destinies of man and in whose mountain heights and ocean depths are wealth and riches without measure, has prepared a "Father's house" for all his children. This heavenly mansion he has bequeathed to us, his adopted children through the Christ, without money and without price. It is ours as an inheritance.

Again and again when our Lord speaks of the eternal lot of the believer and the believer's relation to that lot, he uses such expressions as "inheritance", "children of promise", "children of adoption", "heirs of God", "joint heirs with Christ", "inheritance of the saints in light", and "an inheritance reserved in heaven".

The apostle Paul had no doubt about his clear title to the heavenly mansions. A paraphrase of his words to Timothy would read: "I know in whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep what I have put into his charge until that day." He had no doubts about what lay in store for him beyond the sunset of this life.

Our Father's house is ours! Not because we have earned it or Purchased it: that could never be! But because his love devised a way to make its blessings ours without any merit of our own. It is our inheritance, purchased by a Savior's love. What a blissful lot is ours! The title to our Father's house is written in our name, inscribed with the blood of him who loved us.

When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
E'en then, this shall be all my plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me!