

# Heirs—Tutors—Governors

Sermon #0946  
1963

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 28,

Now for our study this morning we will begin with Romans the eighth chapter and the fourteenth verse.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” Romans 8:14.

Are you a son of God? A daughter of God? That is your privilege.

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear;...” Romans 8:15.

Nothing to be afraid of.

“...but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, the heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together” Romans 8:15 -17.

So we are sons, or children, as it is variously spoken of here. Children of whom? Children of God.

And if children then what? Heirs.

What is an heir anyway? One who is going to get an inheritance. Is that right? Can a man be an heir before he gets it? Oh yes.

“if children, the heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ” Romans 8:17

There is a little boy in England this morning that is heir to the throne of Great Britain. He is not king yet. His mother is the queen. Why is he an heir? Because he is the child of the queen.

How did she get to be queen? She was an heir. She was the child of a king. That is the way it happens.

Now we are heirs of what? God. And joint heirs with whom? Christ. Yes Christ, God's Son, He, we are told in Hebrews the first chapter verses one to three,

is heir of all things. But this says that we are what kind of heirs? Joint-heirs with Him.

What does joint-heirs mean? Well that means that we can share everything that He has. Is that right?

I love the way it is put by the Spirit of Prophecy.

“It would not satisfy the heart of the infinite One to give those who love His Son a lesser blessing than He gives His Son” *Messages to Young People*, page 109.

He wants us all to share in that wonderful inheritance. We think of the physical blessings. We think of what it will mean to have abundant life, perfect health, of what it will mean to eat of the fruit of the tree of life. To walk those beautiful streets of the New Jerusalem, to listen to the music. We think of the fellowship of the good and blessed. Its a wonderful inheritance. Isn't it?

And it all comes to us because we are what? Children. And if children then? Heirs. Heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.

You know if we are really joint heirs, we are going to have more than merely a place in heaven. If we are to have all that Jesus has, we are going to share the privileges of royalty.

And so it is written:

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me...”  
Revelation 3:21.

Where?

“..in My throne” Revelation 3:21.

So you see Paul is not exaggerating here. We are actually heirs of God and joint-heirs of Christ. We are called to the throne of the universe.

A generation ago there was a young man who was an heir of the throne of England, the throne of Great Britain, and as he came near the time of his coronation, he found that there was something else that he wanted more than that. Do you remember about it? Edward. Yes.

For many years known as the prince of whales. Yes, He decided that there was somebody that he wanted to marry. And there was not way he could marry this woman, she was a divorced woman, no way that he could marry her and still retain the throne of Great Britain. And so before his coronation day came, he abdicated the throne. He turned away from the crown and the diadem. He made his choice.

There were those who applauded him. There were those who deplored the choice.

I remember the great spiritual lesson that Elder Luther Warren wrote me about it. In his terse way he put it all in one sentence. He said, "How said it is that today when the coronation of heaven's royalty is so near, that so many are abdicating the throne."

You and I are called to share the throne of the universe with Jesus. Wouldn't it be too bad to sell out friends for any man or any woman, any thing, any tangible, or intangible object to miss the throne that we will share with Jesus?

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" Romans 8:14.

Let's not sell out our inheritance. What do you say?

You know Esau sold his birthright for what? A bowl of lentils. Seems impossible doesn't it? Yes. Just a bowl of lentils. But he said, "After all I am about to starve." He wasn't really. He had probably had breakfast that morning, or at least dinner the day before. But his appetite caused him to sell his birthright.

The Bible says he "despised his birthright." Genesis 25:34. And so today many are selling out for appetite, passion, ambition, the love of money. So cheap. It would be too bad to sell out even for a million dollars, but some people sell out for a lot less than that don't they.

I remember hearing dear Elder Dick, for many years secretary of the General Conference, put it this way. He says, "In a way it seems like a little sin", as people speak of a little sin as not so bad. But he said, "if you will look at it in another way, that is the worse of all. Let me illustrate it," he said, "suppose that somebody that you know, that you love and that you think loves you, suppose you would hear they had turned you down just for a nickel. Wouldn't you feel bad?" You would feel bad if they turned away from you for a million dollars, but to think that they turned away from you just for a nickel.

They didn't love you very much did they? And so I think our dear Father in heaven and our elder Brother, they must feel disappointed friends, of course they feel disappointed no matter how much millions sell out for, but when they sell out so cheap, so cheap, how it must break Their hearts. That is what giving in to little temptations, little sins as we call them, is isn't it? Turning away from Jesus.

We are led by the Spirit of God and we are the sons of God. We are not going to go that broad way. We are going to go that narrow way with those who arrive at last entering in through the gates into the city.

Now, what is this word here that describes what we are because we are children? Heirs. We have an inheritance.

Let's take another text on that over here in Galatians the third chapter. Here again he brings in the thought of the children and the heirs. Paul wrote the book of Galatians and the book of Romans not too far apart in time. Many thoughts that we

find expressed in one book are expressed in the other book in a little different words, but sometimes in nearly the same words. The two books can be studied together with profit. Each sheds light on the other.

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” Galatians 3:26-27.

What is our adoption ceremony? Baptism.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and ...” Galatians 3:28-29.

What?

“...heirs...” Galatians 3:29.

There is our word again.

“...heirs according to the promise” Galatians 3:29.

God made Abraham, you remember, the promise of how much? The whole world. And so we come into Abraham’s farm. We get an inheritance in the earth made new.

Now the next words that Paul wrote we have, as divided here in the fourth chapter. Of course when Paul was writing he didn’t make chapters and verses, he went write on writing. Those were just put in later so we could find certain places. So I am going to read verse twenty-nine of the third chapter and read write on just like Paul wrote it. For there is something there I want us to see.

“And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. Now I say, that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father” Galatians 3:29; 4:1-2.

So there is a time when an heir is a what? A child. And while he is a child he is like what? A servant. In fact Paul makes it very strong.

“he ... differeth nothing from a servant” Galatians 4:1

I wonder what he means?

Well, he means several things. Can an heir spend the future inheritance? No. No. If he wants something where does he have to go? He has to go to his parents. That is what the servant has to do that is working for the parents.

There is another way in which they are alike. What does a servant have to do? He has to obey. Does the heir have to obey? Yes. Even though it says "he be lord of all." That is potentially according to its inheritance.

Take this boy over there that is heir to the throne of Great Britain. Does he have to obey? I rather think he does. I rather think that is the program. He probably has to obey a lot more strictly than many of the common folk. Don't you think so? He has a lot to learn. You know in order to command we must first learn to what? Obey. And if time should last, he would be the king of millions of people.

But right now, he doesn't give orders to anybody. Does he? He takes orders.

Now take his mother the queen. It wasn't very many years ago she was a child. I can remember when she was just a little girl, she and her sister. There are some interesting stories told of experiences when she was growing up. She was the queen to be but she wasn't queen yet. She had to learn obedience. Just the same as a servant does. Is that what Paul says?

Now you boys and girls here this morning. Did you ever wish that you could grow up? How many of you boys and girls ever wished you could grow up? Can I see your hands? Ever think about growing up?

I wonder why we want to grow up?

Well, I can remember and it isn't a thousand years ago either when I wished I could grow up. And you know one of the greatest things I wanted? To do as I please. And I supposed that if I could grow up I could do as I pleased. I didn't know that part of growing up was getting to the point where you didn't do as you please. I didn't understand that.

I didn't know that as long as all you want is to do as you please you are not grown up, even if you are fifty years old, a hundred years old. That is part of growing up to learn that.

But the child, even though he is an heir of all, as long as he is a child, he is under what? Under tutors and governors.

What is a tutor? A teacher.

What is a governor? One that tells you what to do.

Between the tutors and the governors the child has a hard time doesn't he? Or does he? Well, that intends entirely dear friends on the spirit that the tutors and governors show and on the reaction of the child. But let me tell you this friends, never since Adam and Eve went the wrong way at the turn of the road there at the forks of Eden, never has it been an easy thing to take a child and bring it to the place where it is ready for the throne.

Never has it been easy for the tutors and governors. Never has it been easy for the child. And certainly not in this last generation for here all the weaknesses of six thousand years of humanity reveal themselves.

But thank God, our Lord is going to have a group of people including children and youth that are ready for the throne of the universe.

But they are going to have to be under what? Tutors and governors.

How long will they have to be there? Until the time appointed of the Father. I wonder when that will be anyway?

I wonder when I can get where I can do as I please and not have people telling me when to go out and when to come in. I wonder when that will be? Well dear friends, thank God, it will be when we get the inheritance. It will be.

You know it is going to be wonderful to live in a world where everything we want to do we can do, and everything we are supposed to do we want to do anyway. Won't it? Yes.

Well somebody says, "Why can't we go now?"

Well we wouldn't fit now. We are under tutors and governors because we need the tutoring and the governing in order to get us ready. That Prince Charles over there in Great Britain this morning, there might be times that he wished he could have hold of the steering wheel. But the tutors and governors stand in the way. They say, "No Charles. You are not ready for that yet."

"Oh I am too."

I don't know whether he says that. I wouldn't be surprised if he thinks it some times.

How old do you have to be before you are ready to have everything turned over to you? There was a young man that Jesus told about in the fifteenth of Luke. You remember, he came to his father and he suggested that he would like to have the inheritance when? Right now. And the father, for reasons that he thought proper, decided to let him have it. I hardly think though that he was nine years old.

I don't know just how old he was. He was probably what we would call grown. But was he grown up? No. He proved that. He proved it in the first place by the selfish, foolish request he made. And in the second place he proved it how? By the way he spent the inheritance.

He proved that he needed to be under what? Tutors and governors.

Now as it was life supplied him with some. They were a lot harder than his father ever would have been. Weren't they? Oh my friends, life is a hard thing. When you get the hook in your mouth the bait may look attractive, but oh that hook!

That is what many a fish has thought doubtless as it was being pulled in. And that is what the prodigal son finally came to see and feel and know. Wasn't it?

Why down there in the hogpen in the far country is says he came to what? He came to himself.

What does that mean? He got some sense friends. He grew up. He matured.

He had been under tutors and governors, not the ones his father would have chosen, but the hard knocks of life had knocked some sense into him. And then he said to himself, "I am ready to go back and take my place" where? With the servants.

That is the attitude he should have had years before. Wasn't it? I wonder if there is a young person here this morning that sometimes chaffs a bit. You feel a bit restless under restraint. I wonder if there are any of use who are older for this problem is not confined to the teens. Every now and then I see in people that are old enough to be grandparents, they may be grandparents, a restlessness, a feeling if I just didn't have so many people interfering with me and telling me what to do I could do something. I could get something done. That is what the prodigal son thought.

Who is it that appoints the tutors and governors? The Father.

Who is our Father? God.

If you could advise Him, would you change your tutors and governors? If you could get His ear, would you say very nicely, "Dear Lord, probably I need some tutors and governors, but not the kind I have"?

Are there children sometimes that wish they had different parents? Are there students that wished they had different teachers? Are there helpers that wished they had different supervisors? Yes. The world is filled with people like that of all ages. It is a wonderful thing when we come to the place where we accept the tutors and governors appointed by whom? The Father.

And my dear friend, if you choose, there comes a time when you can get away from the tutors and governors appointed by your Father. Not when you are three years old. If you run away then the police will get you back. Even six or eight is a little young. But sooner or later you come to the place where if you accept the tutors and governors appointed by the Father you do by your choice.

Happy is the child, happy is the adult that accepts the assignment that the great teacher has made, and that accepts the underteachers and the helpers that God has ordained to guide his life and to discipline them.

Dear children, whether you are little children or big children, thank God for your tutors and governors. Pray for them. Appreciate them while you have them. Make their task as light as possible because you are going to need all the discipline you can get to get you ready for your inheritance.

You are going to be a king, a queen, and it takes some drilling. It takes some disciplining. It takes some things chipped off and some things built in. It isn't the work of a day or a year. It is the work of a lifetime.

And you know, those of us who have grown up and upon whom some measure of responsibility has been placed, we know that all of us are under tutors and governors. Everyone of us. There isn't a one. I feel sorry for anybody that isn't friends, because examination day is coming, and only those that pass the examination will be able to receive the inheritance and enter upon the glorious experiences of sharing the throne of the universe with Jesus our Lord.

Oh friends, I hope we will all have that inheritance. I hate to think of any of us missing it just for the fun of throwing a fit now and showing what we can do. You know a colt can get out here when he is feeling like it, and he can just run all over the field and throw up his heels, and toss his mane, and defy anybody to catch him. But he will never be worth much on that program will he? Why no.

To ever be worth anything he has got to come to the place where he takes the bridal, gets into the harness, is that right? Is it quite a job to teach a young animal to do that? Oh yes. What careful work it is. We are told that it is the nicest work committed to human beings, that of teachers, that of fathers and mothers to train young minds to accept law and order.

Ah dear parents and teachers how we need to pray for wisdom that in the work given to us as tutors and governors we may reveal the love of Jesus. That we may discipline our households, our students in the fear of God. But it must be done. It must be done.

"Now I say, that the heir, as long as he is a child,  
differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;  
but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed  
of the father" Galatians 4:1-2.

What did Lucifer suggest to the angels up in heaven? What did he suggest on this point? That they did not need tutors and governors. Is that correct? Is that what he told them? Yes.

Was that so? No.

And now for over six-thousand years they have been engaged in a demonstration of how to be happy without tutors and governors. If you could listen in on the demons counsel, do you think you would be cheered? No. What clawing and scratching! What fighting and devouring each other they must engage in.

Ah friends, how much better it would have been for them if they had accepted the tutors and governors that God had appointed for them. So let us today as we face the problems of daily life thank God for the privilege of learning our lesson. What do you say?



Now I would like to have you think of it a bit in the church. You know we are drawing near the end of the year. It is still of course quite a number of weeks before the new year comes, but one of these days a nominating committee will be appointed, and study will be given to officers to guide us in various ways through the coming year. Quite a responsibility to be asked to take any position of leadership in God's movement. Isn't it friends?

Sometimes the great enemy drops a seed into human hearts and they become ambitious, either for themselves, or for somebody else. Most of us have been schooled enough in certain things that we know that it is a suspicious thing to get ambitious for ourselves. But the enemy has a subtle way sometimes of making us ambitious for others.

May I suggest to you dear friends, let's let God appoint the tutors and governors. What do you say? Let's let Him do that. And if He indicates that either we or the people that we might like to push can best be gotten ready for heaven by being under tutors and governors, let's be willing to be under tutors and governors. What do you say? I think God will handle it alright if we let Him.

And so in the institution, and so in every experience of life if we will let God make the assignments and cheerfully accept the discipline He provides, God has a bright future for us.

There was a boy once named Joseph that was taking a ride on a camel. He must have had a good time didn't he? Wouldn't you like to take a ride on a camel? Well you wouldn't have enjoyed Joseph's ride. He was all tied-up, bound hand and foot so he couldn't get away. He had been sold as a what? As a slave.

He was going down to Egypt and they sold him to Potiphar, the captain of the king's guard, the chief of the executioners. I don't suppose that Potiphar was naturally a very tender-hearted fellow, hardly the man to be picked out as chief executioner if he was. And Joseph was put under him as a tutor and governor wasn't he?

And after he had had ten years tutoring under him, he graduated and they sent him where? To jail. To prison. to the dungeon.

It wasn't fair was it? No it wasn't. But God allowed it. He was disciplining Joseph to get him ready for what? The throne. And at the age of thirty he was put on the throne of Egypt and everybody in Egypt had to do what Joseph said. That is what the king told them. "Go to Joseph. Whatever he tells you do it."

The psalmist says that Pharaoh:

“...made him lord of his house, ... to bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom” Psalms 105:21-22.

And as Dr. Crest put it, “it is a wonderful thing for the man that has the power to put people in prison to know what it feels like to be put in prison.” When Joseph

said to a man, “you are going to the stocks”, did Joseph know what those stocks felt like? That’s right. And one of the reasons God let’s you and me sometimes be under discipline, under tutors and governors that hurt us is that so we will learn how to use the reigns of authority when they are put in our hands.

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