

## Jesus Is Eldest Brother

Rm.8:29

2-10-2019

Ps.22:22 I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the Lord, praise Him.

We have been looking at the facts concerning Jesus. The first fact is that Jesus is. He does exist! Still! Scripture also establishes the fact that Jesus is God of gods. He is also King of Kings, Son of God and Son of man, the eternal High Priest and the Lamb of God. In each of these cases the Word of God was examined rather clinically. Our faith does need to be built upon these facts.

My concern is to get too clinical in our handling of Jesus. Although He is the Rock He is not a fossil. If we are to have a loving, living, vibrant and intimate relationship with Jesus we must also keep Him in the realm of the touchable.

We all, likely, have seen the scenario portrayed where a young boy is being bullied in the playground. The young lad threatens the bullies with his older brother. If the brother is known and feared the tactic works. The older brother for a young brother or sister invokes the idea of protector, and well it should. In adult life this can carry over into larger aspects of help and security.

Paul insists that Jesus is in fact the eldest child, but of whose family? (Rm.8:29) It is good to look at the context of Romans 8 to see who Paul is speaking about. 8:5-9 indicates that the group of people he is talking about are those who have the Spirit of Christ dwelling within them. 8:14 concludes this truth: all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." Verse 15-17 further develops this reality that having the Spirit of Christ (God) is equal to being adopted as sons (and daughters)

The following verses (18-28) give account of some of the greatest blessing we gain in this life and in the one to come because of being adopted into God's family. Verse 29 tells us plainly that all who are God's children have one preeminent older Brother, the Firstborn. Jesus is the Firstborn and all who are born again of water and Spirit are his siblings and as siblings, fellow heirs. (And so much more.)

We have gained the future reality of our hope, the resurrection of our flesh. (22-25) We have also gained deliverance and blessing and more in this life too. Who or what can separate you from the love of God? (26-28; 30-34; 35-39) Who will deliver you? Your eldest Brother Jesus will; that is who!

(Other relevant passages: Jn.20:17; Heb.2:12-17; Col.1:15,18)