

*The Adopted Life*

First Sunday of Advent ~ 11.28.2010

## **Our Future In Jesus**

I'm not a morning person. So when Paul says in Romans 13:11 "Wake up from your slumber!" I think "Yikes! This is going to be difficult." Then he says I need to "put aside the deeds of darkness" and clothe myself in Jesus. It just goes from difficult to impossible! I have tried to be good and it hasn't worked out too well. I realize I need to focus on who I am in Christ while reading Romans. Because of Jesus I am:

An adopted child of the Father.

Forgiven and accepted into the life of the Trinity.

Destined to live forever in Christ's resurrection.

Paul isn't giving me a moral lecture. This is not five points on how to be good and secure my place in heaven. Paul is prophesying in the Spirit. He is saying "The Lord is coming, Jonathan, and you will wake up. As the Son has clothed himself in your humanity, so you will clothe yourself in his Divinity."

This is a picture of our future in Jesus. It is a prophecy of what Jesus is doing in our humanity. The Advent of the Lord means that we will awaken, emerge from the darkness, and begin to grow up to look like our brother Jesus. Now that's Gospel!

*~ Jonathan Stepp*