

Last sermon preached on the 17th Nov. 1884, in St. Andrew's Church, Sydney Mines, by Rev. Matthew Wilson.

Text—"Because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father. Gal. iv. 6.

The advantages of the Jewish Church were far inferior to those which are afforded to the Christian Church. The one, for a season, was under the Law, the other is under Grace. The one was like an heir to an estate during the years of his minority, differing nothing from a servant, altho' he be lord of all and placed under tutors and governors, until the time appointed of the father; and the other is like the same person, who, having reached his majority, had the full possession and enjoyment of the inheritance, to which he was entitled. And having described the state of the Jewish Church in her minority, the Apostle declared in the verses preceding the Text, the superior privileges afforded to the Christian Church, through the incarnation and work of the son of God. Thus we read, when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his son, made of a woman, made under the Law, to redeem them that were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Man's adoption of God is the result of his redemption by Christ. Because redeemed by Christ, the sons of men become the sons of God by regeneration and adoption; and thro' the inhabitation of that spirit, whose workmanship they are, they are enabled to cry Abba, Father.

As intimated in the preceding verses, the end of the Saviour's incarnation was to redeem lost sinners from guilt and misery. The Jews alone were under the ceremonial law, and therefore can they alone be said to be delivered from the bondage which that law imposed