

Introduction:

- Before we get into this Hallmark series I thought I'd start with a little humor. Things you will never find in a Hallmark card:
 - "Looking back over the years that we've been together, I can't help but wonder....What was I thinking?!"
 - "As the days go by, I think of how lucky I am....that you're not here to ruin it for me."
 - "As you grow older, Mom, I think of all the gifts you've given me.....Like the need for therapy."
 - "You look great for your age....Almost life-like!"
 - "I'm so miserable without you....It's almost like you're here."
- When you say Hallmark, two things probably come to mind. 1. Greeting Cards, 2. 'Chick flicks' at Christmas time.
- "The Hallmark" - Many of us can't tell fourteen carat gold from eighteen carat. Some of us can't even tell gold plate from solid gold. In old London town, the jewelers of Goldsmith's Hall took pride in doing good work, and they wanted each customer to know what he was buying. So they devised a mark of quality, and its use became established by law. When a piece of gold was stamped with a little crown and the figure 18, everyone knew it was eighteen carat. "The mark of the hall" guaranteed it. The Hallmark is a distinguishing mark that establishes quality and excellence of a thing. Hallmarks are a guarantee of certain purity or fineness of the metal as determined by formal metal (assay) testing. Jesus bore the Hallmark of heaven. Son of God!
- Lets look at Luke 1:34-35 and also "*But when the fullness of the time had come (God's initiative), God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*" (Galatians 4:4-7, NKJV)

I. He is the Son of God, A Statement of Identity

- A. When we consider the Christ, in the holiday season of Christmas, we must make sure that we never lose sight of the hallmark of what makes this man, Jesus, unique to us.
 1. One of the first and most important hallmarks of the celebration of the birth of Christ is the fact that the Son of God was born. He is not the son of Joseph! He is the son of God! The writers of the Gospels are very careful to make this clear. It is issue of identity...Son of God.
 - a) Mt 1 we have Jesus genealogy starting with Abraham ending in vs 16 "Jacob father of Joseph, husband of Mary who gave birth to Jesus the Messiah."
 - b) Luke 3, Luke gives the genealogy of Jesus, "Jesus was known as the son of Joseph... vs 38 to Adam son of God."
 2. Mark begins his Gospel with these words: "*This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.*" (Mark 1:1, NLT) Establishes identity.
 3. John writes at the start of his Gospel: "*And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*" (John 1:34, NKJV) Establishes identity of who this baby is.
 4. Gabriel the arch angel is very clear to Mary: "*And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."*" (Luke 1:35, NKJV). That is a very clear hallmark on this one called Jesus! It definitely distinguish this baby from all the rest. It put a mark of purity and excellence on this birth.
- B. Why is this important?

1. So that the people know what they are getting! So Mary would know, and Joseph would know. It reveals His identity.
2. The hallmark that Jesus is the Son of God is both a statement of fact and a statement of faith.
 - a) It is a fact, in that what we see in Christmas and the reason we are to be celebrating it, is: That God became a man! Redemption is now possible. The Bible is our testament of the movement of God throughout history. The OT speaks of the birth of this One who would be called the Son of God. Who would sit upon the throne of David forever! Who would be Messiah! Who would redeem mankind to Himself! The NT which we just saw confess that He is the Son of God. Angels Lk 1:35, Apostles Mk 1:1; Jn 1:34, New Converts Acts 8:37, Demons Lk 4:41 all speak of Jesus as Son of God! This is important it is a hallmark of Christ we celebrate this season.
 - b) It is a statement of faith, because if you believe that Jesus is the Son of God then you can confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and there is salvation for your soul. I am talking about genuine faith of trusting in Him for your salvation not just affirming that it is true but not accepting Him as Savior.
3. The hallmark that Jesus is the Son of God establishes Jesus identity. The father gives the son identity. That is what makes genealogies so important. Jesus genealogy is our heavenly Father. There is a big difference in, "You shall call Him Jesus and He shall be called the Son of God."
 - a) Jews and Muslims are the same in this understanding: God is so divine He could not possibly be a man.
 - b) Among the gentiles, man is so divine that he can become a God.
 - c) But the reality is that there is only One who is so pure and so God that He could become a man and still be both, pure and God!
 - d) His identity is so important that in Mt 16:15 He asks his disciples, "*Who do you say I am?*" His identity is He is the Christ/Messiah, the Son of God! The question 'who do you say I am?' is one of importance for every person to answer.
4. The hallmark that Jesus is the Son of God makes salvation possible because only God could die and satisfy the justice of God regarding the sin of humanity.
 - a) Only someone who is infinitely God could bear the full penalty for all the sins of all those who believe in Him-any finite creature would have been incapable of bearing that penalty!
 - b) It is the whole purpose God becoming man...our redemption! No man could ever save man. Only God could...so He became a man. Jesus was that man and He fully revealed to Father to us.
 - c) His birth is the connecting point of heaven and earth in His humanity

II. He is the Son of God, A Confession of Faith

- A. "*All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God.*" (1 John 4:15, NLT) 1 John continually refers to Jesus as the Son of God.
 1. Confess - The literal meaning of *homologeín* is "to say the same thing." It means to agree with. But, even demons agree with the statement as it stands by itself. Lk 4:41, James 2:19 says that even demons believe there is a God, so we have to look at 1 Jn 4:15 in context.
 2. This scripture is in the context of abiding. All who confess, agree that Jesus is the Son of God while continually abiding in Him live.
 3. When we believe/trust in Christ for our salvation our confession of faith is Jesus is the Son of God!
- B. Heb 4:14. *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

1. Again, confess - The literal meaning of *homologeín* is “to say the same thing.” It means to agree with.
2. Confession and proclamation grow out of faith. He is the Son of God is a confession of faith. It is one of the reasons why Christians greet other believers in this season with Merry Christmas! Jesus is the reason we have the season to celebrate...God stepping into history as a man.
3. Hebrews instructs us to hold fast to our confession. To hold fast your confession means to seize it! It is not something to grip lightly. What are we seizing? We are seizing the truth that Jesus is the son of God! And we will not let that go because it is a hallmark of the Christ of Christmas.

III. He is the Son of God, And We By Adoption

- A. *“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”* (Galatians 4:4–7, NKJV)
 1. God sent His Son, Jesus-Son of God, to redeem those who were under the curse of the law/separated from God. We were prisoners of hell with no hope of getting out.
 2. To redeem means to buy back. Jesus did not pay off the devil so he could have us back. He paid the price with His own life to satisfy the justice of God.
 3. Then anyone who believes become a child of God, son of God (little 's')
 4. Those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ are saved from their sin and given a new identity...sons of God! No longer a slave but a son of the most High God. A joint heir with Jesus.
 5. *“For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”* (Galatians 3:26, NLT)
- B. Son of God is not just for us to comprehend but to bring us to a place of worship.
 1. We worship Him because He is the Son of God and has redeemed us.
 2. The identity that we had in the beginning is given back to us! Luke 3:38 Adam son of God. His identity become our identity when we believe.
 3. This is what the birth of Christ means to believers! I was dead, living in darkness but I have seen a great light (truth). And that Truth has set me free to be who I was created to be...A son of God. He put His hallmark on us-sons of God.

Conclusion:

- Hallmark is not just a greeting card company. A hallmark is a mark of distinction that assures value and excellence. When we think of the Christ, we must never forget that He is the Son of God. It is His identity. It is what makes him different from every other man.
- To those who believe in Him, He gives them the same identity, sons of God.
- *“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.”* (John 1:12, NLT) If we are true disciples of Jesus, He stamps upon us a mark of quality, a hallmark, a guarantee that we are genuine. Lets look at this first distinguishing mark of God. Eph 4:30 Seal by the Holy Spirit!
- Invitation: Who would like to make Jesus Lord of your life today? It is not enough to know that Jesus is the Son of God, even the demons know that, you must trust Him with your life.