

# Galatians Chapter Four - Gal. 4:1-31 – “Redeemed and Adopted”

## Sunday, September 30, 2018

- ❖ Superiority of the Promise (Abrahamic Covenant) vs. The Inferiority of the Law
  - The Law was given to **REVEAL** our **SIN** to us - the law is **INFERIOR** because...it can only diagnose our problems...it cannot cure them...The Law was **TEMPORARY**... The Law was **INFERIOR** because it came through a **MEDIATOR**...not directly from God...like the **PROMISE** did...
  - **READ Gal. 3:24-25** – The law...our tutor...by showing us our sins...was **ESCORTING** us to Christ.
    - The reason that we need a tutor...to escort us to Christ is so – “**that we might be JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.**”
  - **READ Gal. 3:29** - The **PROMISE** (covenant) God made with Abraham was **IRREVOCABLE** and **UNCHANGABLE**...and was fulfilled in Jesus Christ...our Savior and Lord.
  - **SLIDE** – **John Stott**: “We cannot come to Christ to be justified until we have first been to Moses to be condemned. But once we have gone to Moses, and acknowledged our sin, guilt, and condemnation, we must not stay there. We must let Moses send us to Christ”
- ❖ **Gal. 4:1-7** – Paul continues his thoughts on being an “**heir**” and **SUPERIORITY** of the **PROMISE**.
  - **Ver. 1** – When a wealthy person has a child...that child becomes “**heir**” to the family fortune...until he/she comes of age...until he/she **RECEIVES** the **INHERITANCE**...he/she cannot write checks on the fortune...he/she cannot withdraw cash from any accounts...he/she cannot invest any of the fortune...even though at some point he/she will control the fortune.
  - **Ver. 2** – “**guardians**” – manager – agent – entrusted to act in another’s name.
    - “**stewards**” – The General Manager of the household → which included being a **TUTOR**.
  - **Ver. 3** – Before we gave our lives to Christ...we were in bondage to the “**elements of the world.**” - Paul describes both Jewish and Gentile religions ...as elemental because they are merely human...never rising to the level of the divine.
    - **READ** – **Col. 2:8 & 20-23**.
  - **Ver. 4** – “**fullness of time**” - In God’s timetable...when the exact **RELIGIOUS** ...**CULTURAL**...and **POLITICAL** conditions...demanded by His perfect plan were in place...Jesus came into the world.
    - “**born of a woman**” → Jesus’ **HUMANITY**
    - “**born under the law**” → obligated to **OBEY** it → kept it **PERFECTLY**.
  - **Ver. 5** – **WHY** was Jesus “**born of a woman**” and “**born under the law**”?
    - “**to redeem those who were under the law**”...“**THAT**” – “**we might receive the adoption as sons.**”
      - “**adoption**” → sonship...used 5 times by Paul...here...**Rom. 8:15 & 23** ...**Rom. 9:4**...**Eph. 1:5**.
        - ◆ **SLIDE** – **Zodhiates**: “Paul in these passages is alluding to a Greek and Roman custom rather than a Hebrew one. Since *huiiothesía* was a technical term in Roman law for an act that had specific legal and social effects, there is much probability that Paul had some reference to that in his use of the word. Adoption, when thus legally performed, put a man

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in every respect in the position of a son by birth to him who had adopted him, so that he possessed the same rights and owed the same obligations.”

- **Ver. 6-7** – God...the Father not only sent His Son...but He also sent the Holy Spirit...illustrating that...the **TRINITY** is involved in our salvation!
  - **SLIDE** – **Walvoord**: “The Holy Spirit is a gift of God to every believer because of sonship. No sons or daughters lack the Spirit. Further, He is present within each believer’s heart to give evidence of that one’s position in God’s family.”
  
- ❖ **Gal. 4:8-20** – Concerns for the Galatians
  - **Ver. 8** – We served the lust of the flesh...the lust of the eyes...and the pride of life...we served **OURSELVES**...who are certainly...“**by nature not gods.**”
  - **Ver. 9-11** – Paul asks if they are going to return to the “**weak and beggarly elements**” of **Ver. 3**...do you desire to be in **BONDAGE** again?
  - **Ver. 12-16** – **READ** and make comments
  - **Ver. 17-20** – “**They**” – the Judaizers
  
- ❖ **Gal. 4:21-27** - **FREEDOM** vs **BONDAGE**
  - **Ver. 21** – **SLIDE** – **Walvoord**: “The Galatians had not yet submitted to the bondage of the Law, but they desired to. Paul desperately wanted to stop them and turn them back to a life under grace. As a transition to what would immediately follow, he challenged the Galatians to be aware of or to understand what the Law really said.”
  - **Ver. 22-27** – Freedom and Bondage **CONTRASTED**
    - **Ver. 23** - “**through promise**” – through Abraham → Justified by **FAITH!**
  
- ❖ **Gal. 4:28-31** – Three Comparisons for Personal Application
  - **Ver. 28** – Number One: Just like Isaac we are “**children of promise**” – children of the covenant...Abraham’s seed...children and heirs through **FAITH!**
  - **Ver. 29** – Number Two: As Ishmael teased and persecuted Isaac...so the Judaizers are persecuting you by...trying to put you into bondage...again...through the Law.
  - **Ver. 30** – Number Three: **Gen. 21:9-12** – Observing the Law does not bring **INHERITANCE** in the family of God - The lesson?...you cannot combine **FAITH** and **WORKS**...**FREE** and **BOND**...**PROMISE** and **LAW**.
  - **Ver. 31** – Since we are “in Christ”...we are Abraham’s seed...and...Abraham’s heirs...we are children of the **FREE** woman...and therefore...“**children of promise.**”
    - The **IRREVOCABLE**...**UNCHANGABLE**...**IMMUTABLE**...promise of **JUSTIFICATION** by **FAITH!**
  
- ❖ In the closing chapters of this letter...Paul will point out the greatest **TRAGEDY** of legalism:
  - It gives opportunity for the flesh to work.
    - The old nature cannot be controlled by law...eventually it has to break out...and when it does...watch out!

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- **SLIDE – Wiersbe:** “Thank God, the Christian is set free from the curse of the law and the control of the law. “Cast out the bondwoman and her son.” It may pain us deeply, as it did Abraham, but it must be done. To attempt to mix law and grace is to attempt the impossible. It makes for a frustrated, barren Christian life. But to live by grace through faith gives one a free and fulfilling Christian life.”