



Galatians: Heirs

June 28

INTRODUCTION: Having defended and defined the Gospel, Paul is now appealing to the Galatians in their foolishness with all the reasons why they are not justified by works (including becoming Jewish). The Law's purpose was never to save but rather to drive us to the Promise, through which Christ rescues us from slavery to legalism/idolatry so we might become mature and free heirs. Why would you want to go back?

RECAP: [Galatians Video \(Bible Project\)](#)

KEY POINT: Once enslaved, now adopted/heirs/free.

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Eric Watson)

- What was the sermon about?
- What were the key points?
- Key takeaways...? Questions to keep considering?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Cam McLean)

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READ: (begin in 3:29) Gal 4:1–11

CHRISTIANARY:

Guardian/managerschildren (c.f. 3:24): a slave who was responsible for taking children to school and ensuring—often cruelly (1 Cor 4:15 and 21)—that they paid attention to teachers. Managers were household stewards.

En/slave: the effects of being a slave, what you serve (e.g. sin)

Liberty: Freedom from sin and death (and wanting to sin) to live as God wants us to without compulsion (c.f. Gal 5:1).

Elementary principles: Either the basics (like ABCs) but more likely the elements (like spirits, c.f. v. 8b; either Satan twisting the Law or blinding us through false gods).

Law: Whether the Mosaic Covenant (Jews) or moral law (Gentiles). That which can condemn and guide but not save.

Adoption: Becoming a child of a parent you are not biologically related to. As sinners we're not naturally God's children.

Son/Heir: a child, usually a son (excep. Nu 27), who will inherit their father's estate, both the privileges and responsibilities. How they are related to changes when they come of age.

*Paul's dense logical writings are not always easy to understand (2 Pet 3:16). Here, he mixes several metaphors and trains of thought: inheritance, slavery, law/principles, Jew-Gentile, etc.

| | Inheritance | Slavery | Christ |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| Old Covenants | 1. Child -Abraham | | Eternal Son of God |
| | Gaurdianship (meant to prepare for promised inheritance) | 2. Slaves/Principles -legalism (Jews) -idolatry (Gentile) | |
| New Covenant | Set Time | Liberation | Fullness of Time |
| | 4. Sons ← | Free | 3. JESUS -fully God/man (born of woman) -fully perfect man (born under the Law) |

← Adoption →

Paul explains 3:29. Just as children will one day become sons, Abraham was a child in that the Promise of Christ was never realized in his day (1). Later, under Moses, Abraham's physical offspring, were given the law to drive them to the promise (but which could not save). This, however, tended toward legalism vs. faith. Likewise, Pagans were enslaved by the false gods they worshipped (2). Just as at a set time a child will become an heir, God sent His Son (3) so that believer's might become sons (4), meaning both Old Covenant believers might mature by receiving greater promises (e.g. Holy Spirit) but also that unbelieving Jews and Gentiles might be rescued from slavery and adopted as sons (4).

QUESTIONS:

Paul begins by addressing what 3:29 looks like...4:1...

The Illustration, vv. 1–2

1. *Paul uses this illustration to recap the same salvation history he has just overviewed (Abraham, Moses, Jesus).*
2. **In relation to your parents and the world, what was the difference between when you were a child and when you**

had come of age? When an heir is with title but not of age?

NEXT: July 5- Gal 5:1–15, Freedom in Christ

Slaves to Elementary Principles, v. 3 (c.f. 8 and 9b–10)

2. How does legalism and idolatry enslave us?

3. Who is the slave master?
4. How are they weak and worthless?
5. What did old covenant believer's lack?

The Initiative of Jesus, vv. 4–5 (v. 9a) and Its Blessing vv. 6–7

3. *Just as a father determines when a son is ready to come of age, so too the Father had set the time when the New Covenant would be inaugurated (Mk 1:15). Why was Jesus' birth the right time? The Roman peace existed over much of the known world so the message could travel. Greek language (like English today) facilitated the spread of the message. Old paganism was waning and people desired something more. The Law had done its work preparing Jews for freedom. Marvel at God's wisdom.*
4. **How is God's timing in our lives always perfect?**
5. *Jesus came to redeem or rescue us from the law (both condemnation but even, for believers, the inability to obey the Law). How did Jesus rescue (buy us out of slavery)? (think justification and 1:4 and 3:13).*
6. **Vv. 5b and 6. What two blessings, in the order of salvation, are mentioned of Christ redeeming work?**
7. **Identity- what does it mean that believers are "sons"? What blessings and responsibilities come with this?**
8. **Among other things, how does the gift (or partial inheritance, c.f. Eph 1) of the Spirit assure us of this? (c.f. Ro 8:16). How does this enrich our prayer life?**
9. *V. 7- by faith we are an heir of God's promise to Abraham!*

The Point/Paul's Appeal/Conclusion, vv. 8–11

10. **V. 8–10- Whether Jewish-Galatian Christians or Gentile-Galatian Christians, why is embracing the false Gospel of faith + works of the Law backward and hence foolish?**
11. **V. 11- Why does Paul interject these statements? (3:4b, 5:21b). If one persists in a grave error what does it reveal?**
12. **Restate this passage in your own words.**