

## Book of Galatians – Teaching #10

In the first 2 chapters of this book, we noted the Authenticity of the Gospel, that is its origin and the nature of this Gospel,

In the next two chapters we noted how Paul is describing the superiority of the gospel.

**Chapter 4** we will note the privileges that the gospel releases in the life of the believer.

**Chapters 5&6** will open up our understanding of the “true liberty” we have in the gospel.

As we view **chapter 4** we will note the certain privileges that the gospel releases in the life of the believer. We will note the difference between the Old Testament believers, and the New Testament believers.

As we take this dispensation view of man let me remind us that there is a difference between an **heir**, and a **Son**. In Old Testament times, not all God’s children were recognized as sons. Minor children were not recognized as their fathers’ “heirs” until they were officially adopted as sons.

We interpret adoption in our culture a little differently. In the Old Testament time, a child did not become a son until they were adopted. This was taken place at the behest of the father. He made the decision about the child and when it was time for him to become a “son”

The child would aspire to be adopted. It was something he looked forward to.

With this background, looking at the first **4 verses of Chapter 4** of the Book of Galatians, this is what is in view.

**Verse 1** – “now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child does not differ at all from a slave”, though he is master of all.”

(remember now that we are looking at this important perspective from the household of that day)

Even though he is actually destined to inherit the whole estate, if he is a child, he differs not from a slave.

*B.P. here, Paul is using this example from the Mosaic law and is dealing with the issue of **spiritual maturity**. Paul is demonstrating that those who choose to live under the Mosaic law are spiritual immature and differ not at all from a slave.*

Paul is about to demonstrate that those who are spiritually immature are those who choose to live under the mosaic law. Paul is reminding these Galatian believers, a certain characteristic of an heir as a minor child. The word Paul uses here is the Greek word Napios (infant young child with out speech) and is contrasting it to a “son” (huios).

**Verse 2**, “*but is under guardians and stewards until a time appointed by the father*”

this child had no freedom, no liberty until he was appointed by the father. Now by birthright he would own the entire estate, yet he was kept in wraps and unable to enjoy all that he had, as long as he was acting as a child.

The guardians were there to protect his estate, but until released by the father, he differed not from a slave.

Again, under Roman law and with the Jewish children, this age was determined by the father. It was different for each child and was at the father's discretion. There comes a time when the father formally acknowledges that the child is no longer a child, but now a son and thereby an heir. In Jewish tradition, this is known as Bar mitzvah.

Are we understanding?

**Verse 3** *“Even so we when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world”*

(Bunny path here beloved) May I remind us at this juncture what Paul said in Colossians **Chapter 2 vs 20** & following:

*“Therefore, since you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations “do not touch, do not taste, do not handle, which all concern things which perish with the using-- according to the commandments and the doctrine of men – These things have the appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.”*

Wow, how much time and energy is wasted by so many believers as they attempt to appear spiritual and it is nothing more than activity of the flesh. From spreading of incense to robes and on you go with it.

Elements of the world include what to eat, drink, wear, where we go, how we dress, the length of our hair adhering to a set of rules and standards. These Gentile believers were born in liberty, and along came these “religious zealots” who were placing them in bondage. Paul would have none of it.

Paul is using the illustration in order to show the contrast between the believer's former position and what they now enjoy, i.e. in their spiritual immaturity, when acting like children, differed not at all from a slave.

Now still concerning the “**elements of the world**” as mentioned above.

Remember when Adam and Eve sinned? What was their response. It was their desire to cover themselves with fig leaves. ***Religion is man's attempt to “cover himself”***

All with the hope of “covering themselves” so they are seen in a different light than they really are. Rather than be honest about our fears, we say “I'm fine” rather than expressing our true feelings, we lie to one another. In order to get along with some folks, we need to become a person we are not. Some folks feel the need to remind us of their pedigree, training, schooling, successes etc. Beloved, religious trappings are all around us. People know more about how I should act, than they do about Jesus Christ.

It is interesting that every form of cult requires some sort of bondage. Yet, Jesus Christ when He walked on the face of this earth, was the most unreligious man on earth.

Way too many believers are not honest about themselves. If they were, then their shortcomings would be apparent. Age has a way of helping those of us who have tried all of

our lives to impress someone else. Finally you get to the point where you say “who cares” Sadly however all too often we continue to put up this facade that we want others to believe about us.

We are all enslaved in this thinking until Christ sets us free. Paul is saying that we can be freed from the bondage of this if we will let Him do it. In some cases these believers were enslaved by the law of Moses, others by the trappings of religion itself. The enslavement of the Law of Moses was most insidious because it appears to be biblical.

Now **verse 4** – “*but when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law*”

A couple of side notes here beloved, It was the Romans who built the road systems that enabled folks to travel more abundantly preaching the gospel throughout the known world and the Grecian language system that enabled folks to talk to one another throughout the world/

It is of interest to me that the internet now has tied the entire world together and is certainly the venue that God will use to let the whole world know at the same time the “two witnesses” mentioned in the Revelation that will suddenly appear to the whole world at one time

At this writing, future president Trump was the feature on Saturday as the assassin’s bullet just missed his head, striking the ear and within moments, it was around the world.

Anyway, at the proper time, God sent forth His Son, His Only Son Jesus to earth, *born of a woman (verse 4) born under the law*. Notice both the deity and humanity of Jesus is listed here. According to **1<sup>st</sup> John 4: 9&10 and John 3:16** denotes the eternal Sonship of the Lord Jesus.

**Verse 5** – “*to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoptions as sons.*” The importance of the adoption is again listed above..... When speaking about those redeemed under the law, he is speaking about those who were under the entire elements of the law. Those who were under the slavery of the entire system of the law. The emphasis here is not on the penalty of the law, but the BONDAGE of the law and its system.

The question then becomes, “why would Gentile believers who were not under the law, want to subject themselves to the law?” Very good question and relevant today.

The death of Jesus Christ secured for believers the full rights as Sons. All the enjoyments and privileges of a mature son in a family belong to the benefits of Christ’s redemptive work. He paid it all.

**Romans 8:17** – ‘and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.’ Well that sounds great doesn’t it? Read the rest of the verse – *if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may be glorified together*. Could it be that some will be disappointed when they get to heaven?

I would like to close this message with a passage from the **Revelation 21:4**

Before we get there, there are some who believe that when we get to heaven there will be some who will be disappointed. Not because of His presence, not because of the lack of knowledge we have of Him, nor the surroundings which will be so glorious. No, I think it will be because of our lack of action while here on earth. We will be very grateful for our works of gold, silver and precious stones (**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:12**) vs the wood hay and stubble which are burned up upon entry into heaven.

I think the disappointment will be with our lack of involvement in the things of God while here on earth. It will be the lost opportunities we see we missed. It will be of the times where He nudged us to get involved in something that He was in or in supporting, encouraging and praying for things He started around us that we turned a blind eye to.

What happens after the rapture of the Church? In heaven, there is a different scene than on the earth. We know of the tribulation on the earth, but let's concentrate on the things in heaven. We will have a body like unto our Lord Jesus Christ, and according to **1<sup>2nd</sup> Corinthians 5:9**, we will "all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that we may receive rewards for things done while in this body. Permanent things like gold, silver and precious stones and superfluous things like wood, hay and stubble. Upon these things will our rewards be based. (I have a complete teaching on these on the web page if you desire)

In any case, some of our works are nebulous, others are permanent and we will receive a reward for them.

Some believers will make it into heaven by the skin of their teeth, others will be rewarded for a lifetime of service. Some will receive "crowns" (there are 5 listed in scripture that I know of, but maybe more)

All of the works are based upon our faithfulness (not our successes) of things done through the work of the Holy Spirit. Point being, that which is derived by the Holy Spirit, will endure. Those not. will be burned up as wood, hay and stubble. (**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3**)

The point here is that according to **Revelation 21**, God will wipe away all tears. Why are there any tears? There are no shortages in heaven, there is no lack of knowledge of God, no illness nor death. Why then are there any tears?

Those tears are going to be over lost opportunities. The time we wasted involved in so many, many things. Those things we might have done for the Lord if only we had stepped out in faith, in this boot camp we call life.

When we realize that our opportunity throughout eternity are determined by our faithfulness today, some of us will need a Kleenex tissue.

Notice the end of verse **17 of Romans 8** says; *we are joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we all might be glorified together. I do not think this verse is related only to those nations that are persecuted for the sake of the gospel.*

Notice now in **Revelation 21:4&5** – "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away, and He makes all things new.

This begs a question asked above.

More later.

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