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We will see that Paul is devoted to teaching the principal and doctrine of salvation by Grace. He had lived under the Law his entire life and when he found Grace it liberated him as it does us. His intention, his duty and obligation are to share that liberating truth with the world both Jew and Gentile. As it was then, it is today, a challenge to get Jews to listen, let alone accept the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Truth is not of any church or religion, but it is founded on the relationship Jesus Christ built on the Cross between God and mankind. Jesus used His own blood not only to cover our sins but also as the cement to solidify that relationship between His followers and His Father.

Paul will often use historical practices found within the Law to point to a New Covenant, the one that frees us from the law.

#### **Galatians 4**

#### **Sons and Heirs**

([Genesis 21:1-8](#); [Romans 8:12-17](#))

**1Now I say, *That* the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of**

**all; 2But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.**

Paul states a simple fact of how a child even of royal lines was treated in his youth within Israel. Even though this law was gender centric to males the New Covenant includes females in the same manner today as co-equal heirs. The God uses terms that are meant to convey both male and female in meaning but in our language are pronouns that seem to speak only of males. Under the New Covenant with Christ; spiritually both male and female are equal in God's Love, Grace and Mercy.

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

Another word for "elements" would be "fundamentals". Our bondage stemmed from the fall of man; it positioned us all under the fundamental's "elements" of the fall; a sin nature. The sin nature thusly put us under the Laws of God. The world had become the property of Satan, when Adam and Eve surrendered the title deed to Satan by falling for the lies in the Garden of Eden.

**4But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,  
5To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.**

Specifically, God sent forth His Son made of “woman”. Jesus could not come from the seed of man as that seed had been tainted with sin from Adam on. The seed that was planted in Mary as Jesus’s mother Spiritually untainted, created by God and given to Mary.

From the fall of man, mankind was separated from God, in a way left to fend for themselves for a season; to learn how hard life would be for a person separated from God the Creator. Man was so thoughtless that he needed time to recognize his position in relation to God. Sin ran rampant as there was no restraining element to hold back sin or Satan.

When God established the law, He put within the law a means of temporary reprieve from sin; it was called the blood sacrifice. It was a means of spilling innocent blood to cover the sins of the guilty. It was all in preparation for the New Covenant a Covenant based on Grace not on Law. Man needed the law to see how far short he came from pleasing God.

Remember we discussed last week there are really three covenants; Abrahamic Covenant that is still in progress today, the Old Covenant defined by the Law given to Moses and the New Covenant brought to man from Christ Jesus which has its foundation in the Abrahamic Covenant.

The New Covenant was brought by the Son of God to earth. He was born of a woman so He would justifiably be seen by all including Satan as a perfect human being. His birth was consistent with the law as was His upbringing.

The entire effort waged by God was to fulfill the Law He had written. The fulfillment would be His One and Only Son, a treasure so valuable that even Satan would have to recognize that it fulfilled every aspect of the Law.

**6And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.**

We were adopted by God through His Son. The Spirit of His Son is carried by the Holy Spirit and comes into a new believer upon that person asking to be forgiven with a pure heart. We now like Christ, cry out to our Heavenly Father; Abba, Father. A term of personal endearment; reflecting a father child relationship.

**7Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

In the metaphor of a child of the King and slave being the same as the child is growing up and learning, is not speaking of young Christians but people who acted like children, not knowing anything of the Truth; being unsaved. Once we were saved, we were immediately adopted into the Family of Christ and could

then call God Abba, Father; at Salvation we are granted full heirship through Christ.

***Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.***

***Galatians 3:29  
And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.***

### **Paul's Concern for the Galatians**

Paul will now once again call out the Galatians reminding them of the condition, he found them in. They were heathens worshiping manmade gods; Mercury, Mars, Jupiter etc. that had been handed down from their ancestors and other cultures. They were in bondage to inanimate objects and celestial bodies. If you recall the Galatians were from Gaul which is in modern France. They were descendants of Celts. This is a commentary about Julius Cesar's writings about the Druids and their progeny; the Druids were the elites of that society of Celts; they were the teachers and priests.

From;  
<https://christianity.stackexchange.com/questions/41246/what-religious-beliefs-did-the-galatians-hold-when-paul-first-preached-the-gospe>

*"The nation of all the Gauls is extremely devoted to superstitious rites,*

*Again,<sup>4</sup>*

*They worship as their divinity, Mercury in particular, and have many images of him, and regard him as the inventor of all arts, they consider him the guide of their journeys and marches, and believe him to have great influence over the acquisition of gain and mercantile transactions. Next to him they worship Apollo, and Mars, and Jupiter, and Minerva; respecting these deities they have for the most part the same belief as other nations: that Apollo averts diseases, that Minerva imparts the invention of manufactures, that Jupiter possesses the sovereignty of the heavenly powers; that Mars presides over wars. To him, when they have determined to engage in battle, they commonly vow those things which they shall take in war. When they have conquered, they sacrifice whatever captured animals may have survived the conflict, and collect the other things into one place.*

*Finally,<sup>5</sup>*

*All the Gauls assert that they are descended from the god Dis, and say that this tradition has been handed down by the Druids. For that reason they compute the divisions of every season, not by the number of days, but of nights; they keep birthdays and the beginnings of months and years in such an order that the day follows the night.”*

In short, they worshiped the creation not the Creator, much like many people today worship the environment both earthly and galactic rather than the One who Created them. They give honor

to night as the beginning not the day as God the Creator had ordained it.

**8**Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. **9**But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Pay especial attention to a phrase in verse 9;

*“**9**But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God,....”*

**Q.** It is one thing to know God, but it is even more important that what? Be known by God!

*Matthew 7: **21**Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** **22**Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **23**And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you**: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

It is one thing to know God or to know of God it is life changing to be known of or by God.

In that same vein there were two sons, one said he would do as his father asked the other said he would not! Which served his father?

**Matthew 21: [28](#)But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. [29](#)He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. [30](#)And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. [31](#)Whether of them twain did the will of his father?.....**

As Christians we know that talk is cheap, God knows that as well; what really matters more than what we say is what we do out of obedience to God.

**[10](#)Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.  
[11](#)I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.**

Unsaved people will look to all kinds of manmade or spiritual beings made up or imagined, to worship and ostensibly follow after. As we found out from Cesar's writings Paul was concerned that all the effort he had put into teaching them about God and Jesus Christ was of no use if they simply fell back into Pagan worship or more importantly into the Law.

**[12](#)Brethren, I beseech you, be as I *am*; for I *am* as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.**

Paul is saying that he was born a Jew, followed emphatically the Law and was in bondage to the Law. Once saved though Paul says he became, saved by Grace and not the Law; "for I am as

ye are” Paul became as a gentile, one saved by Grace and it caused him no injury to be as they were; Saved by Grace and not by the Law.

**13Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. 14And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.**

Paul reminds the Galatians of his eye affliction that they overlooked in order to hear the gospel. We have an idea that it was something to do with his eyes due to the next verse. The Galatians were so enthralled with his message of hope that they overlooked what was an obvious physical detraction and looked to him as their deliverer; like Christ.

**15Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if *it had been* possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.**

We are not told exactly what his eye affliction was but undoubtedly an unsightly and painful eye problem.

**16Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?**

When you convince someone of a fact and then later that fact is disputed, and that person changes their mind; that person looks at you with a suspicious eye thinking that you lied to them or

misled them. If you then come back and reiterate that truth sometimes people take great exception to you doing that even though it is the truth. They believe they had found the truth that was not what you told them. And here you are again telling them what you had previously told them. As Mike is fond of a saying “I believe what the last person I talked to told me.”

**17They zealously affect you, *but* not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.**

The “they” here are the zealous Judaizers that came into divert the Galatians belief in Jesus and Grace to legalism “but not well”. In this process of diverting these believers to Judaism they would remove Paul as the Galatians Spiritual father so to say and became that spiritual leader instead of Paul.

**18But *it is* good to be zealously affected always in a good *thing*, and not only when I am present with you.**

Paul is extolling the ideal of being zealous for Christ even when he, Paul, was not with them. It is necessary for each of us to become zealous in our own manner and not depend on any other human to inspire us to walk in obedience and joy. That inspiration has got to come from the Holy Spirit not self-manufactured. It will come with prayer and worship of God; walking out each minute as He directs us. Our failure to pay attention every minute is what allows Satan an opportunity to stifle our ministries.

**19My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, 20I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.**

Paul is in essence declaring that they needed to be “born again” again. That Christ had been present in them when Paul left was now absent due to their desire to follow the Law and not Christ. They needed to be retrained in the Truth.

Harsh words sometimes become an ointment; a salve that is needed to bring reality back to a person that has begun to stray. Paul reminds them of their new birth in Christ that he was there every step of the way until the moment of “birth”. Paul is now concerned that they have fallen in the trap of legalism from the Judaizers and now Paul calls into question their salvation.

### **Hagar and Sarah**

**21Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? 22For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. 23But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman *was* by promise.**

Paul is going to eloquently draw a comparison of the Covenant of promise of Grace and the Covenant promise of the Law. He will do this by showing the relationship between Abraham’s wife Sarah and her bond-servant Hagar. Abrahams wife Sarah and the

one covenant were based on freedom and a promise; the other Covenant and child through a physical relationship and disobedience to God; leading to bondage and the Law.

Sarah represents the freedom she had to marry Abraham and when they walked in obedience their offspring was Isaac and through him the chosen people of Israel. Through that lineage we come to the Freedom giver; Christ Jesus.

When Abraham strayed into the flesh and copulated with the bond woman Hagar the offspring was of bondage Ishmael; the Law.

**24Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. 25For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. 26But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.**

**27For it is written, Rejoice, *thou* barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.**

The translation of the chosen people Israel, the promise to Abraham and his wife Sarah have transmogrified, changed completely from a single chosen people Israel, to a worldwide chosen people the Bride of Christ including Jews who accept the

free gift. That is not to say that God has abandoned Israel they are still His original chosen people and His foreknowledge is that He will save a remnant of that people.

**28Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. 29But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.***

The two covenants; the promise and the bondage; one walks in the Spirit of Christ the promise, the other walks in bondage the flesh. There is enmity between the two as there is with good and evil.

**30Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.**

For the believer we must die to the old man, the bond servant of the flesh and commit every part of our being to freedom, the Covenant of Christ the Savior of the world. We cannot serve both as Christ says;

***Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.***

**31So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.**

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