

The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians

Sons and Heirs

Galatians 4:1-7

1. **We Were in Bondage** (vs.1-3)

Prior to coming of age, a child of a wealth was similar to his own slaves in that he had no ability to exercise his authority over his estate. During that time the son would have submitted to those individuals who had been given charge over him (cf. Gal. 3:23-24). Prior to faith in Christ, all people are enslaved to the things of this world (v.3) and to false religions (v.8).

A. Inclined to Sin (Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Ps. 14:1-3)

B. Identified by Sin (Jn. 8:42-47; cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Jn. 1:6)

C. Incarcerated to Sin (Jn. 8:34; Ro. 6:6, 16-20; 7:14-25; Ti. 3:3)

2. **We Have Been Redeemed** (vs.4-5a)

The answer to man's bondage to sin was not the giving of the Law but the sending of the Son. Similar to John 3:16 or Titus 3:4-6, these verses serve as an inspired summary of the mission of Christ and of the gospel of grace.

A. The Plan of God: In the Fullness of Time (Gn. 3:15; Eph. 1:3-8)

B. The Pre-Existence of the Son: God Sent His Son (Jn. 1:1-3; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:2; cf. Dan. 3:24-25)

C. The Prophetic Fulfillment: Born of a Woman (Gen. 3:15; Matt. 1:22-23)

D. The Hope of the Faithful: Redeem those Under the Law (cf. Heb. 9:13-15; 10:1-4; Gal. 3:10).

3. **We Have Been Adopted** (v.5b)

Forgiveness and redemption are only parts of the blessing of God the purpose of Christ. In God's amazing kindness, He has chosen to adopt us as sons as well (Ro. 8:16-17; Eph. 1:5; cf. Jn. 1:12-13). This relationship that God has established is the basis for which we can address Him as Father in the way that Christ did (cf. Mt. 6:9-15).

4. **We Are Sons and Heirs** (vs.6-7)

As adopted sons, we have the blessing of the inheritance from the Father. The inheritance which was always based on a promise from God and not on the basis of the Law (cf. Gal. 3:29).