

Galatians 4:1-7

- 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,
- 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.
- 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.
- 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
- 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
- 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"
- 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

*The Christmas Story According to Paul
Galatians 4:1-7*

INTRO:

How important was what happened on that first Christmas Day? What did God do for us when He sent forth His Son to be born a baby boy at Bethlehem? The Apostle Paul tells in his telling of the Christmas story in **Galatians 4:1-7**.

I. What We Were (v. 1-3)

II. What God Did (v. 4-5)

III. What We Have Because of What He Did

I. What We Were (v. 1-3)

Galatians 4:1-3 *“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, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.”*

A. To help us understand where we were before Christ came into the world, he hitchhiked on a well know cultural reality. In the typical Roman household, the children, even if one was an heir of the father, were brought up under the control and authority of a slave. Children had not rights or privileges. They existed in this

condition until the time that the father of the house had dictated for the child to grow to manhood.

B. The phrase, *“until the time appointed by the father”* is significant. It is answered in the first phrase of **verse 4**.

C. Paul drew the application of this illustration in **verse 3**.

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

Like the children in **verses 1-2**, we are bound under sin and unable to do anything to deliver ourselves until God Himself interceded for us.

II. What God Did (v,4-5)

Galatians 4:4-5 *“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”*

A. When the proper time came. Many times we think about all the preparatory events in the world when we think of this phrase. We list things like the Pax Romanus, the Roman roads, and the universal Greek language. While these things paved the way for the Gospel, God did not wait for these things to appear. They were in place because God planned it that way. In this text the main thing was that this was exactly the time that the Father had determined. This was always God’s plan.

B. The Lord Jesus was *“sent forth”* He was and always would be God’s eternal son, As **Isaiah** wrote in 9:6;

“Unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Son is given.”

C. He was *“born of a woman.”* This is His incarnation. God come in the flesh. Remember **Matthew 1:23**?

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’”

D. He was born *“under the Law”* He was born in a situation just like we were, except He was born without sin and never sinned. That is why Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 5:21**;

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

E. All these things were done so that He might redeem us who were under the Law. He did it to buy us back from our slavery to sin so we might be free to serve God.

The purpose of this was to give us the privilege of being a son of God. To say this in difference so we may have all the privileges of being a Child of the King.

III. What We Have Because of What He Did

Galatians 4:6-7 *“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ”*

A. There are two results we need to recognize we have because we are children of God because of faith in the Jesus Christ who came to redeem us. First, we have the Spirit of God living in us. The evidence Paul cites is the action of the Spirit of God in our hearts. Before we discuss what this means let’s look at the other place this phenomena is described.

Romans 8:15 *“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”*

Both these verses, our verse here in **Galatians 4** and the one in **Romans 8** use a Greek verb meaning *“to cry out with a loud voice.”* We see what this means in the context in **Romans 8**. There we read;

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”

B. Second, we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ. He will do all things regarding our salvation God promised He would do. If Jesus hadn’t come and died for us, none of this would have been ours.

What do we take away from this?

1. If Jesus had not come. If God had not send forth His Son born of a woman, born under the Law. We could never have been saved.
2. Do you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior? You can have the greatest Christmas gift ever given.