

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.

God’s Eternal Plan ***Galatians 4:1-7***

INTRO:

The last time we were here we learned the purpose of the Law was never to save us. Rather, it was a tutor to bring us to Christ. This was so vitally important in the Apostle’s mind that he illustrates how this worked in the history of redemption. He describes what we were and then what God did.

- I. What We Were (v. 1-3)**
- II. What God Did (v.4-7)**

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. The Apostle Paul expanded on the role of the Law being a school master until Christ came.

“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,”

Paul uses an illustration taken from an upper class Roman household. The house had servants, who were charged with the care and education of the children. The immature heir as well as the slaves children were all put under the charge of these servants. So, even if the individual was owner of these servants he was still under their charge. The Apostle's point was: historically before Christ came, we (God's people) were put under a servant.

B. (v. 2) *"But is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father."*

The status of being in subject to a tutor was never intended to be permanent. It always was until the time appointed by the Father. The child was subjected to the tutor until the Father gave him the inheritance.

C. The Apostle Paul then drew the clear parallel between the temporal and spiritual reality.

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

Before Christ came, we learned we were all sinners and under the righteous condemnation of a Holy God. We were being lost were also under the elements of the world system. We did not have victory over sin. Some were saved by faith, but before we can believe we must feel the need of a Savior.

II. What God Did (v.4-7)

Galatians 4:4–7 *"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, [in order] that we might receive the adoption as sons. 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. In **Galatians 4:3**, we found ourselves in a terrible position. We were under the Law, which cannot keep. We are slaves to the evil principles of the world we cannot escape. What could we do? Nothing. What did God our Father do?

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law."

Here is the Christmas account in the Apostle Paul's writing. It happened not by accident, but by the Father's personal decision, ***"when the fullness of the time had come."*** Christ's birth was not accidental in time, place, or manner. The word phrase, ***"the fullness of time,"*** means, ***"When the full time came."***

1. This is the time set before by the Father (**verse 2**). When the very moment struck on our Lord's eternal clock, God sent forth His Son. The Lord Jesus Christ

came not just as a pre-existent One, but as the Son of God (**John 1:1-2**), sent to carry out a mission He alone could accomplish.

2. He was "***born of a woman.***" God in human flesh. Under the Law, as we were, but not sinful. He came "***in the likeness of sinful flesh but without sin.***" (**Romans 8:3**).

B. Why did the Father send Him?

"To redeem those who were under the law, [in order] that we might receive the adoption as sons."

Remember Paul's picture. He wrote about our slavery. Jesus bought us back from our slavery to sin and the Law and made us sons of God. What did it cost Him to redeem us? His very life!

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

C. Part of the incredible blessing of being placed as an adult son is the Holy Spirit of God who is given to us at our Salvation.

"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'"

1. There is an important parallel passage we need to see and understand here.

Romans 8:13-16 "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 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.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

2. Some questions we must ask and answer are: First, what does it mean "***to be led by the Spirit?***" The answer is in the verse before if we walk in the spirit. We work on putting to death with God's help the sins of the body. Second, what does it mean, "***by Whom we cry, Abba Father?***" We must not forget Paul's parallel statement in **Galatians 4:6**.

"God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'"

This is the essence of **Romans 8:16**. The Spirit of God cries out with our Spirit this is our heavenly Father.

D. All of this means a wonderful reality is ours.

"Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ"

Because of what God did, we are no longer in the horrible state of being minors bound under a horrible Law and in bondage to sin. We are now Sons of God with "***all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.***" We have an eternity in heaven waiting for us.

Do you know this Lord Jesus? Have you embraced Him by faith?

If you do, do you rejoice in all He did for us?

Hymn #186 *The Old Rugged Cross*