

## Gal 08 – From Slaves to Heirs – Gal 4:1-11

Last week we ended w/ Paul stating - we are both **Sons** of God,  
& **Heirs** according to the promise - thru our faith in Jesus Christ

& we ended by talking about that great word “**baptizo**” –  
where **Gal 3:27** says as many of us were “**baptized**” into Christ (*identified*)  
have “**Put-On**” Christ

& then Paul says in **3:29** - if we have “**Put On**” Christ –  
then we are **Heirs** according to the promise given to Abraham

Today – Paul’s going to continue that thought (us being Heirs) -  
by developing the analogy of a **child heir** becoming an **adult heir**

& using that analogy – he’ll **finish explaining** how the *Purpose of the Law*  
was “Fulfilled” when we came to Christ

Today – Paul makes **the Fulfillment** of the *Purpose of the Law* very clear –

& **in explaining** how the *Purpose of the Law* was “Fulfilled”–  
we find **tremendous confidence** in our relationship w/ God  
as Son’s/Daughters - thru our faith in Jesus Christ

### **Let’s Pray**

In the **first 5 Vs’** Paul’s going to use a perfect Analogy to explain -  
not only the **Fulfillment of the Purpose of the Law** . . . but also  
**our position** as a result of Christ “**Redeeming Us**” from under the Law –

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I’d like to read the **first 5 Vs’s** of **Ch 4** all together –  
to give us the picture of this *comparison analogy* . . . (watch for it)

**Gal 4:1-5** →

## **Gal 4:1-5**

*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.*

Paul **does a perfect job** here comparing a Child growing into Maturity – **w/ us** growing from the Law – into the Adoption as sons/daughters . . .  
So – let's go thru it . . .

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## **Gal 4:1-2**

*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.*

Paul begins w/ a very **well known truth** in the culture of that day . . .

**the heir** of the family was put under the . . . what ??? (paidagogos) – **until the time** appointed by his father – for him to become a man

Neither words in **V.2** are paidagogos – they are other Greek words for those who would guard & care for the Heir – - These **Guardians** & **Stewards** were “***in addition to***” the Tutor (paidagogos)

& so Paul says – in this way – **the heir** does not differ from **a slave** – because he has multiple “masters” (*if you will*) – who tell him where to go & what to do

Even tho one day **he will be** the master of those who now **oversee him** – until that time comes (*which is set by the father*) - he is under those who eventually **he will be** the master over

This custom was very normal in both the Jewish & the Greek cultures – **Jewish boys** – age 12 (bar mitzvah) – **Greek boys** – age +/- 18 (apatouria)

The “**coming of age**” of a boy to “**maturity**” was well known to the Galatians - & that’s why Paul uses it as an analogy of us & the law . . .

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Paul begins that comparison in **Gal 4:3**

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

In the same way – when **we were children** (before our maturity) –  
We were - in bondage under the elemental things of the world - **(NASB)**

Now – this can be a bit of a difficult phrase – but not if we look at it **in context**

**Elements** (elemental things) means **LIT** – “the **base** or **fundamental** things” –

& down in **V.9** Paul uses **the same** word to describe the base or fundamental things of religion (**the law**)

So the idea is we were under the **fundamental things** of this world’s religion - whether it be **Judaism** or the **Greek** religion the Galatians were under

The point is we were “**Governed**” by the fundamental things in this world – like an heir is “**Governed**” by his Stewards & Tutor . . .

**just like** that heir – We were Governed by the “elemental things of this world” until the **time appointed** by the Father (as **V.2** says) . . .  
*but at that time – something drastic changed*

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& we see that in **Gal 4:4**

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

“*the fullness of time*” refers to **the completion** of a time of preparation - here meaning – when the Law had fully accomplished it’s purpose . . .

“. . . when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth **His Son**”

Notice carefully the Two Distinctions re: the coming of Christ . . .

1) “*born of a **woman***” -- 2) “*born under the **law***”

These are references to **TWO** bondages that we are under (before Christ)

**If you have a bulletin** – flip it over & look on the back

See (3<sup>rd</sup> down) where it says “*men are sinners by **nature** and by **choice***”  
**Both** of those problems are addressed in this vs.

Because of the fall of man, we are **sinners by nature** -

& this reference – of Jesus being “*born of a woman*”

is a reference to His humanity (*more so than His virgin birth*)

**Jesus Christ was 100% man & 100% God . . .**

He had to be 100% **Man** - to represent **mankind** on the cross . . .

He had to be 100% **God** – for His sacrifice to pay for the sins of **mankind**

Jesus was born in *humanity* – so he could break *the bondage* of the *sin nature*

& then **V.4** also says Jesus was “*born under the law*” –

Jesus was born under the requirements of the law just like us . . .

but unlike us – ***He lived under that law without sin***

So – Jesus was born under the **Humanity** which condemns us *by nature*

& was born under the **Law** which condemns us by *our choices*

He was **born under** both of those bondages –

so He could **set us free** from both of those bondages . . .

The most correct term is . . . so He could **Redeem** us from both –

the curse of **the Fall** - - & the curse of **the Law**

Let’s read **Gal 4:4-5** together

*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.*

Remember – “*to redeem*” – is to **pay the required price** to buy back a slave -  
so that slave could be set free

& Jesus Christ **conquered** both;  
the curse of our **sin nature** - & the curse of our **sinful choices** . . .

& He did it by **becoming sin** for us & paying the full penalty required to  
“**buy us back**” from the judgment of God that we deserved

& that should be **sooo much enuf** for us - forever & ever . . .  
how could we ever ask for more - - but the end of **V.5** says there **is** more

V.5 says [Christ came] to **redeem** those who were under the law, that we might  
**receive the adoption as sons.**

Now that – **is out of control** – Not only did Jesus Christ **become sin** for us  
so that we **could receive** the Righteousness of God in Him . . .

but He also made **the way** for us to be **ADOPTED** as sons & daughters of God

Now – Do me a favor . . . think of the richest person in the world . . .  
Now think of someone **100 Million times** richer than the richest person

& **that** person walks up to you while **mowing your lawn** in Nuevo . .  
& says – “*I’d like to adopt you today & give you all of my inheritance*”

& if you can imagine what it would feel like for a person who’s **100 Mil times**  
**richer** than the richest person in the world – to offer you adoption . . .

then you could get an **infinitesimal** understanding of what it means  
for the **God of the Universe** to offer you that full adoption

**Not only** did Jesus Christ redeem us  
from the **curse** of the **sin nature** – & the **curse** of **the law** . . .

but He also **made the way** for us to be Adopted as Sons/Daughters of God  
**w/ full inheritance rights** . . . *how should that make us feel ?*

Thru our faith in Jesus Christ – **we are adopted** Sons/Daughters of the  
**Only God** – **The Most High God** - of all the Universe (*w/ full inheritance rights*)

& not only adopted – But God **sent forth the Spirit** of His Son, into our hearts

In order to **give us** that “*Double Guarantee*” that “*Solid Confidence*” –  
In order to **carry us** by His Power until that day of our inheritance . . .

God sent forth **the Spirit** of His Son, into our hearts . . .

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## **Gal 4:6**

*6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”*

Not only does Jesus Christ Redeem us from the curse of the **Sin Nature**

Not only does Jesus Christ Redeem us from the curse of the **Law**

Not only does Jesus Christ make us **Adopted** Sons & Daughters of God . . .

But thru faith in Christ – He sends **His very Nature** to dwell within us

as His **Guarantee** - & as His **Divine Power** to keep us until all the rest  
of what He’s done for us becomes a full reality – **WOW !!!**

*. . . & when was the last time you truly thanked God – for doing all that for you*

One of the ministries of the **Holy Spirit** in our lives is to give us the confidence  
(& right) to cry out to God “**ABBA, FATHER**” **Meaning** – *Daddy, Daddy*

This word **ABBA** is actually an **Aramaic word** used by children to say  
“Daddy, or Papa” – it is the term of greatest endearment & trust

The Holy Spirit **dwelling in us** gives us the *right & the confidence* to have  
that most **personal intimate relationship** with our Heavenly Father . . .

Knowing He always **Hears** us, always **Cares** for us, & is always **There** for us

It is this word (Abba) that **Jesus Himself used** when He prayed in the Garden  
of Gethsemane in **Mk 14:36**;

*“Abba, Father all things are possible for you . . . ”*

& then **Jesus went** from there – *to the cross* – so that we could be  
adopted Sons/Daughters - & be able to say with Him “*Abba, Father*”

This truth is wonderfully written in **Rom 8:14-17**

*14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

*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.**"*

*16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

*17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

& that is the **exact same point** Paul is making in **Gal 4** . . .

**God responds** to our adoption thru Faith – **by sending** us His Holy Spirit that enables us to have that *intimate relationship* with God so we can cry out to Him as **Abba, Father** . . .

& THAT - is beautiful & *overwhelming proof* – that we have been raised from **slaves to the Law** to **Heirs of God**

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& we see that back in **Gal 4:7**

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

Notice – We are no longer a **Slave**, but a **Son** & an **Heir** - - "**thru Christ**"

& again – **HOW** does that happen "**thru Christ**"??

We dealt w/ that last wk in **Gal 3:27**

**Gal 3:27**

*27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

When We have been immersed "**In Christ**" – We have "**Put On**" Christ - & so "**Through Christ**" we have become *Heirs of God* . . .

& you are "**Baptized**" into Christ - - & you "**Put On**" Christ . . . by Receiving Him as your Savior & Lord - - THRU FAITH . . .

That is – putting your whole **trust & confidence** in Jesus Christ – As your Savior & Lord . . .

**& for those of you who have done that** - - -

TODAY you are *one day closer* – to receiving an inheritance from God that our minds **can't** even begin to **comprehend** . .

*. . . now – what was it again, that you were unhappy with God about . . . ??? was it something God **didn't do** the way you wanted Him to do it ??*

He has made us **Joint-Heirs** w/ His only Begotten Son Jesus Christ – He has **reserved** for you an **inheritance** of Glory that is *not worthy to be compared* to anything you could ever experience on this earth

He has sent **His Own Spirit** to Dwell in you as His **Guarantee** & to enable you to have an ongoing *intimate relationship* with Him where by you can cry out **Abba Father** . . .

**AND** – **pls hear me** – He has given us the privilege of **aligning our will** w/ **His will** – Just as Jesus Christ did in the Garden of Gethsemane – when He said *“Not my will, but Thy will be done”*

& **that privilege** – of being Sons/Daughters of God - & *Joint-Heirs w/ Christ* **IS NOT** – so that we can **Demand** things of God . . . but instead . . .

It is the privilege of being **LED BY God** . . .

Which is perfectly explained back in **Rom 8:14** (*just read it a moment ago*)

## **Rom 8:14**

*14 For as many as are **led by the Spirit** of God, **these are** sons of God.*

Please **notice carefully** – it **DOES NOT** say “as many as **LEAD** the Spirit” But instead – “as many as are **LEAD BY** the Spirit”

As with any Heir – **our Sonship comes** with *Great Responsibility* – That is . . . to live like the Heirs that we are . . .

Which means we **CANNOT** go back to being slaves to the Law . . .



## Back in Gal 4:8

8 But then [**back then**], indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.

In the **NASB** - there's kind of a "Word-Play" here . . .

## Gal 4:8 – NASB

8 However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.

When you did not **KNOW** God –  
you were slaves to those things which are **NO** Gods

We'll see in **V.9** – Paul is talking about the weak & worthless things  
that used to drive the Galatians in their religious exercises

**[Video]** & Paul says – those religious exercises - - Were **NO gods**  
they were the things you followed - before you came to **KNOW God**

## then he cont's in Gal 4:9-10

9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?

10 You observe days and months and seasons and years.

These are powerful vs's about **ADDING** bits & pieces of **Religious tradition or Law** to the Liberty we have as Sons & Daughters of God - in Christ

Paul's saying – "Wait a minute – now that your full fledged adopted sons – why do you want to go back into the slavery of the Law & Traditions"

**NASB** says here for **V.9** – ". . . how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things . . . ?"

& then he **throws in the example** of following days & months, etc

Paul's saying those things **had** their place – but . . .

Now that you've **received** your full adoption as *Heirs* of God –

Now that you're **not under** the *Tutoring* of the Law any longer . . .

**WHY** in the world do you want to go back under that bondage ???  
& he calls those things (in the **NASB**) **weak and worthless elemental things**

For more study on these “things of Religion” – **Col 2:16-23**

& **Paul closes** today - w/ a heartfelt expression in **V.11** . . .

### **Gal 4:11**

*11 I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.*

Paul had **been thru a lot** to bring the Gospel of Grace & Faith to the Galatians

Long **travel, illness, sacrifice, struggles** w/ the Jewish church . . .  
Not to mention **the stoning** he received in Galatia when he 1<sup>st</sup> came

& he closes today by saying . . . ***don't let all that be in vain*** . . .  
**don't fall back** into the weak things of religion

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Guys – Jesus Christ died for you - to give you  
a **Living Personal Relationship** With the Almighty God . . .

Don't exchange that for **weak & worthless things** of mere Religion

**Let's Pray**