

11/29/20 Message

Part of Counterfeit Character

November 28, 2020

Message: No Longer Slaves

Series: Counterfeit Character

Recap: We're in the 4th message in our ***Counterfeit Character*** series which is taken from the New Testament book of Galatians. Counterfeit (by definition) means made in imitation of something else with intent to deceive. Do you know any counterfeit people? Around 50 A.D. a coup was rising in the first century church. The Judaizers were robbing the church of their freedom through legalism. The false teachers were claiming to be saved, in addition to believing in Jesus, you also must keep the law of Moses (Mosaic Law). Paul wrote to the Galatians (many churches in the region of Galatia) to tell the truth and combat the lies of "another" gospel. The theme is by grace alone, through faith alone.

The Connection

Out of all of Paul's writings, he only references Christ's birth and integrally connects the gospel to Christmas in Galatians.

The signet prophecy of Jesus' birth comes from Isaiah:

Isaiah 7:14 (NLT)

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah said this about 700 years before Jesus was born! It was significant and thus repeated in Matthew's gospel:

Matthew 1:22-23 (NLT)

22 All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

23 "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

- The name Jesus means the LORD SAVES

Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit (making Jesus fully God) and the virgin Mary (making Jesus fully human).

He was the only one who could cross the divide between man and God to bridge the gap, to conquer sin, to defeat death, to lock the doors of hell and throw away the key - that's Jesus!

—Pastor Chad

Paul's Connection to Christmas

Galatians 3:23-29 (NLT)

23 Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed.

24 Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith.

25 And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.

26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on the character of Christ, like putting on new clothes.

28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

Galatians 4:1-7 (NLT)

1 Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had.

2 They have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set.

3 And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world.

4 But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.

5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.”

7 Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

What we learn through Paul:

- Jesus is AVAILABLE to you (3:23)
- Once you hear about Jesus, you are ACCOUNTABLE (3:23)
- The law is no longer connected to being saved, it’s now a guiding principle for LIVING (3:25)
- The grace of God and His forgiveness only comes through FAITH in Jesus (3:26)
- Once you’re baptized, you put on the CHARACTER of Christ (3:27)
- Once you’re saved, you put “the old you” (your past) to death (3:28)
- Once you’re saved, you become His HEIR (3:29)

God Sent Jesus to Purchase Your Freedom

The primary Christmas verse in Galatians is:

Galatians 4:4 (NLT)

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.

Jesus was born under or subject to the law. This means Jesus was born at a time where all things were subject to the same law He would put an end to!

—Pastor Chad

Why put an end to it?

Because Galatians 4:5 reveals people had become slaves to the law. To many, it had become more about following the law than following God.

- Because of Jesus, you are no longer a SLAVE (4:7)

You are no longer bound by the chains of darkness, the chains of sin... you are set free by the freedom of forgiveness - you are no longer a slave!

—Pastor Chad

That's your inheritance! Freedom! Salvation! Heaven!

All because of Jesus. All because of Christmas!

Choose Jesus and you'll no longer be a slave! Experience the freedom of surrender, the freedom of forgiveness, the freedom of amazing grace!