

- I) V1 INTRO: Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all
Review: The last time we were together, we concluded with 3:26-29
- II) V26 For you are all sons of God **through faith in** Christ Jesus
This is the consistent testimony of scripture
FOR EXAMPLE
- III) Ro 3:21-22 But now God has shown us a way to be made **right with Him** without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made **right with God** by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone **who believes**, no matter who we are.
HE WENT ON TO SAY
- IV) Ro 3:27-28 Can we boast, then, that we have **done anything** to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. So we are made right with God **through faith** and not by obeying the law.
- V) The Jewish legalists are insisting that the Gentiles must hold to the Law
Paul said that what they were teaching was not the gospel, but was error
Gal 1:6-7 I am amazed how quickly you are deserting the One who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel, which is not even a gospel. Evidently some people are troubling you and trying to distort the gospel of Christ
PAUL IS CORRECTING THIS
- VI) Salvation isn't the result of religious upbringing, rituals, or our own efforts
Salvation is the fruit of trusting in what Jesus has done to save us
Ro 10:9-10 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For **with the heart** one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- VII) Paul makes it clear salvation is through faith, and not by works of the Law (V6-7)
- VIII) V26 For you **are all** (both Jews and Gentiles) sons of God (through faith in Jesus)
You don't have to first become Jews to receive the blessing of salvation
Both Jew and Gentile come into the family by faith in Jesus
- IX) He is the heavenly Father of those who become His children **by faith in Jesus**
Ro 8:14-15 As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received **the Spirit of adoption** whereby we cry, Abba, Father

- I) V27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have **put on Christ**
When we trust in Jesus, we are placed in fellowship with Him, and in His body
1 Co 12:13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.
- II) When we were saved, we have **put on Jesus**
Literally, we have been **clothed in Christ**
By grace, we are now in union with Jesus and are becoming like Jesus
- III) Paul said something similar to the Colossian church
Col 3:11-14 there is neither Greek nor Jew circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian Scythian, slave nor free but Christ is all, and in all. Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on** tender mercies (compassion), kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things **put on love** which is the bond of perfection
- IV) In Colossians, the emphasis was us clothing ourselves with the love of Jesus
Christians loving one another comes by God's grace and not by the law
It is the result of being clothed in Jesus and filled with His Spirit
- V) Gal 3:28-29 makes it clear that we are one in Jesus and now Abraham's seed
We are heirs according to the promise:
What promise? The promise of eternal salvation and blessings in Christ
BEGIN STUDY
- VI) V1-2 I say that the heir as long as he is a child does not differ at all from a slave
WHAT IS HE SAYING
- VII) During the time of Jesus a child had a prescribed time when he would **come of age**
A Jewish boy was under the control of his father
At around 13 he had a coming of age and began to enter adult community
- VIII) In Greek culture, a boy was under his father's control until around the age of 18
At that time a festival was held in which the boy was declared to be in training for two years, during which he would have special responsibilities to his clan or city-state. At the age of 20, the boy's long hair was cut off, and offered to the god Apollos, the god of prophecy, music, medicine, and poetry

- I) In Roman culture, boys would take their toys and offer them in a sacrifice to the gods as a symbol of putting childhood behind them
- II) This seems to be what Paul alluded to in 1st Co
1 Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
PAUL'S POINT
- III) Even though he may be the heir he can't act in a legal sense
Even if he inherits **everything**, he doesn't receive it **until he comes of age**
- IV) V2 is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father
Guardians cared for **the boy**; stewards had oversight over **the property**
HIS POINT
- V) He is still under the authority of guardians and stewards **until he comes of age**
At the date set by his father, everything changes: He is now in control of his life
It would often rest on when the father determined he was mature
- VI) V3 Even so we **when we** were children were **in bondage** under the elements of the
He includes both Jew and Gentile in this comment
Before coming to Jesus, both were under the authority and slaves to moral laws
- VII) **Elements**: The spiritual ABC's of the world; the foundations, building blocks
This can speak of human rituals and rules, **which are merit driven**
Both Jew and Gentile were under basic religious and moral principals
- VIII) Paul spoke of this in his letter to the Colossians
Col. 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.
Col. 2:20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules
- IX) V4-5 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a
Fullness of time is the completion of the period of preparation in God's timetable
POINT
- X) When the Law fully **completed its purpose**, God sent His Son
He provided the righteousness for man that man could not provide for himself

- I) The law was limited because of human sinfulness
Because of this, God sent His Son to fulfill its requirements we could not fulfill
Ro 8:3 The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.
- II) This is how we become children of God by trusting in the One who fulfilled it
Through God sending His Son to do what we are incapable of doing
Mt 5:17 Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. **No, I came to accomplish their purpose.**
- III) Gal 3:23-25 revealed to the Galatians that they had been under the law
Jesus came, and faith in Him set us free from the rules and regulations
- IV) V4 This came **in the fullness of the time**
This came at the predetermined time established by God the Father (V2)
QUOTE
- V) As a father set a time for his son to come of age, God set the time for His son to come to earth as man's redeemer
THE BLESSING
- VI) Those who under the Law were no better than slaves
Now, because of Jesus they have become sons of God
- VII) Notice how Paul said this happened in the fullness of time
This was the right and proper time that He determined it should happen
- VIII) The time was right **religiously**
The Jews, under Roman control, were groaning for their Messiah
- IX) The time was right **culturally**
There was a common language (Greek), which made the preaching easier
- X) The time was right **politically**: It was during the Pax Romana
This made travel easier because roads and highways were built
It was a time where there was economic and political stability
AT THE RIGHT TIME

- I) V4 God **sent forth** His Son (from heaven into our world)
In the predetermined time, when Jew and Gentile were ready Jesus was sent
The One, who was **with** God, was **sent** by God at this perfect moment
APPLICATION
- II) **God's timing** is always perfect
Eccl 3:1 To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven
- III) Jonah, at the perfect time a great fish swallowed him up and dropped him off!
Nineveh was in northern Iraq and is modern day Mosul
The great fish was directed to meet Jonah as he was thrown overboard!
- IV) Jn 4 speaks of the Woman at the well, another example of God's perfect timing
Jesus came at noon, knowing she would be there
- V) Lu 7:11-16 speaks of the widow of Nain
As Jesus approached the town, a young man who had died was carried out
The widow was inconsolable at her loss, and Jesus' heart was touched
- VI) Luke 7:14-15 tells us Jesus approached the open coffin and said Young man, I say to you arise. So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother
- VII) Eccl 3:11a He has made everything beautiful **in its time**
Ro 8:28 We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
PERSONAL APPLICATION
- VIII) In our own lives God has a work He wants to do through us
From when I was first saved, I came to know I wanted to be a pastor
All the events that Marie and I experienced have led to this place
- IX) The important thing is to be sensitive to His leading, and to wait patiently
Ps 27:14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; **Wait, I say, on the LORD!**
IN THIS PASSAGE
- X) Salvation was initiated by God at the right moment in human history
This was a decision He made because the time was right

I) V4 **God sent** forth His Son

1 Jn 4:9 This is how God showed His love among us: **He sent** His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him

Ro 8:3 The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. **He sent** His own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

II) V4 **born of a woman**

At the right time, God **took upon** Himself human flesh

III) This speaks of His **complete humanity: He had a human nature**

Phil 2:6-7 (Jesus) Who, existing in the form (nature) of God, did not consider to be equal with God something to be grasped (held on to), but emptied Himself, having taken the form (outward appearance) of a servant, having been made (to become) in the likeness of men.

IV) Jesus the Christ was **born of a woman**

Jesus was conceived by the power of God without any intervention of man

V) This is what the angel Gabriel told Joseph about Mary's pregnancy

Mt 1:20 Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her **is of the Holy Spirit**

VI) V4 He was born *under* the Law to redeem those who were under the Law

Jesus was an observant Jew, keeping the entire law perfectly

Mt 5:17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them

VII) Jesus pointed to Himself and the One who kept every law, perfectly

No one could point out any sin in His life

Jn 8:46 Which of you can prove Me guilty of sin? If I speak the truth, why do you not believe Me?

VIII) He also fulfilled the prophecies that had been

Jn 5:39 You search the scriptures for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they **that point to Me**

- I) Jesus was the perfect fulling of the Law's **demands** and **prophets'** preparation
QUOTE
- II) By accepting Jesus as Savior, we no longer have to rely on strict adherence to the law for salvation, but instead can receive forgiveness and grace **through faith in Him.**
- III) Jesus perfectly satisfied every requirement of the Law
This is something that we cannot do: it required Him to do it on our behalf
Ro 8:3-4 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.
THE PURPOSE
- IV) V5 to redeem those that were **under the law**
Remember what Paul had already said
Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree)
- V) Jesus took our penalty for a reason
That we might receive **the adoption** as sons
- VI) Man is not naturally His child: We receive this relationship **through adoption**
Jn 1:12 As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His Name
- VII) V6 Because **you are sons** God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts
- VIII) Jesus made a promise to His disciples
He was going to the cross, and they were about to be left without His presence
Jn 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you**
Jn 16:7 I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, **I will send Him to you.**
- IX) God confirms **our belonging to Him** by giving us His Spirit: Intimate, endearing
Ro 8:15-16 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

- I) V7 You are no longer a slave but a son and if a son then **an heir of God**
We will inherit all that the Father has, and **the law** did not provide this for you!
Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ
- II) Though Gentiles, they still were to inherit the blessings God has for His children
We receive grace, glory, righteousness, salvation, eternal life and the kingdom
Ro 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs --heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.
- III) V8 But then indeed when **you did not know God** you served those which by Gentiles were lost, and had no revelation of God, the way Israel did
Eph 2:12 (You Gentiles) were at that time separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth (citizenship; community) of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and **without God in the world**
POINT
- IV) Things that were by nature, not gods
They were idolaters, ignorantly worshiping demons and not the true God
1 Co 10:20 The things that the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils and not God
- V) V9 But now after **you have known God** or rather **are known by God**
You have known God speaks of the process of **obtaining knowledge**, of God
- VI) The knowledge of the true God came to you when I **preached the gospel** to you
You heard what Jesus did for you, and you came to faith in Him
Ac 4:12 There is salvation in no one else for **there is no other name** under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved
- VII) You came to know God because of the gospel message
As a result, you are now known by God (accepted by Him)
- VIII) Before this, you were lost and without God
Ro 5:6 When we were still **without strength**, in due time Christ died for the **ungodly**
Ro 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still **sinners**, Christ died for us
Ro 5:10 For if when we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life

- I) Without the grace of God, we are separated from Him and awaiting judgment
Paul made our condition clear: Without strength, ungodly, sinners, and enemies
You were slaves to man-made rules and salvation by works
- II) V9 You are turning again to the **weak** (insufficient) **beggarly** (no spiritual power)
- III) How is it that you are returning to the world's ABC's of righteousness? (V3)
Col 2:20-23 You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, "Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!"? Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires.
HIS POINT
- IV) Jesus set you free from this, through His work on the cross and His grace
Gal 3:26 You are all sons of God **through faith** in Jesus Christ!
Why then would you desire to return to such draining spiritual bondage
- V) The legalists are bringing you into bondage: why do you desire to be in bondage
The observation of Jewish feast days and regulations pointed to Jesus
Col 2:16-17 Do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.
- VI) Perhaps all my labor has been for nothing: you may never truly have been saved
All the pain, afflictions, and suffering may have actually been worthless
- VII) All the effort, tears, and prayers may have been in vain compels me to write
2 Co 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.
Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you, unless of course, you fail the test!
HIS POINT
- VIII) It is not my fault for not clearly **teaching**: it is your fault for not truly **believing**