

Walking into the Freedom of the Messiah

4:1-11

Heir - even though the next in line owns everything they are managed as children until the time set by the father.

Slave - decisions are made for them.

Jesus is the one who has ended the time of the law and has inaugurated you inheritance.

Law -> a time of slavery

Jesus -> a time of freedom

vs. 3, when **we** were children (slavery)

Who is the we?

Paul -> I was in slavery, under the elements

Galatians -> You were in slavery, under the elements

Torah regulating the life of the Jews apart from Christ had the same results as the elements which regulated the gentiles apart from Christ.

- Both equally enslaved.
- The power of both was broken by the coming of Christ.

Element of the law

The law was holy and good (Romans 7:12).

It is useful for moral instruction and revealing sin (Romans 3:20)

The law is temporary, inferior (needed a series of mediators), cannot bring life, and imprisons.

Elements of the world.

Fundamental building blocks of the world, basis of how humanity functions (human systems, social networks, cultural categories).

The systems that children are born into. The elements remain happy if the child goes to their grave not questioning (the way the world works). This is the slavery that all of us are born into and many never ponder a reality that could be different.

The guiding powers and principles of this age. They pervert and corrupt. "Their aim is to divide the world and all that constitutes it, creating the categories, hierarchies, and evaluations that guide, limit, and constrain human beings in their thoughts, behaviors, and interactions, keeping them in a form of ideological and systemic bondage. ~ David deSilva

Cultural superiority, social power plays, using humans (female & male) as stepping stones for achievement; All of this is slavery! It is living under a curse.

Question: What areas of your life are still being controlled by the elements? Elements of the law and elements of the world? What steps need to be taken to begin to believe and live the truth of freedom?

vs. 4, The guardianship is over. The Messiah has come.

God sent his Son

Born of a woman (fully human / Incarnational)

Under the Law -> only human to meet every requirement of the law.

Providing redemption (**vs. 5**)

Those who believe receive adoption as sons (full heirs).

Rich, meaningful, intimate relationship with God through the Holy Spirit (**vs. 6**).

Abba - Aramaic for Father. This was Jesus' term for God.

Mark 14:36 And he said, "Abba, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will."

vs. 7, This is your identity.

- You are no longer a slave.
- You are a son.
- You are an heir.

Question: Have you grasped the significance of the intimacy that is available with your heavenly father? How are you delighting in the joy and will of the father?

vs. 8, Summary of vs. 1-3

Don't go back to slavery.

Under Moses and after being rescued the people wanted to return back to Egypt.

Numbers 14:1-4 Then the whole community broke into loud cries, and the people wept that night. **2** All the Israelites complained about Moses and Aaron, and the whole community told them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had died in this wilderness! **3** Why is the Lord bringing us into this land to die by the sword? Our wives and children will become plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" **4** So they said to one another, "Let's appoint a leader and go back to Egypt."

Exodus 16:2-3 The entire Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. **3** The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by pots of meat and ate all the bread we wanted. Instead, you brought us into this wilderness to make this whole assembly die of hunger!"

Slavery is less demanding than freedom.

I would rather exist in the way things are than go through the journey of freedom.

Enslaved to things that by nature are not gods.

Spiritual and practical implications regarding the Galatians everyday lives.

- Under the curse of the Torah.
- Wavering in an understanding of who are the heirs of Abraham.
- Putting themselves under the discipline of the local Synagogue.
- Accepting the rules of Rome socially and politically.
 - continuing to try and shelter under the Jewish exception.
 - acknowledging Caesar (pacify culture)

Opening the doors to demonic activity.

These religions are empty.

The scheme of the evil one is to exploit human brokenness.

They ought to have valued the testimony of the Spirit in their inner person more than the testimony of the rival teachers.

2 Corinthians 3:15-17 Yet still today, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts, **16** but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. **17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

vs. 9, Summary of vs. 4-7

You are known by God.

1 Corinthians 8:2-3 If anyone thinks he knows anything, he does not yet know it as he ought to know it. **3** But if anyone loves God, he is known by him.

- Believing the Messianic gospel (faith in Jesus).
- Knowing / Experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- Sharing in the richness of the family of God.

Isaiah 52:10 The Lord has displayed his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Romans 8:14 For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons.

Question: Have you accepted and embraced the fact that you are known by God? How much of your life is occupied by looking back? What needs to take place in order to take hold of Jesus and live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit? How will this change your understanding of hope?

vs. 10, You are at the cutting edge of the new creation. Why turn back now?

- Old observances of Jewish festivals.
- Observations of pagan holidays (Caesar cult)

vs. 11, Has my labor for you been wasted?

Isaiah 49:4 But I myself said: I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and futility; yet my vindication is with the Lord, and my reward is with my God.

3:1-4:11, This concludes Paul's step by step, logical argument.

4:12-20, Paul moves to a personal appeal.

By faith...(Hebrews 11)

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, **2** keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Question: Are you aware of the saints who have gone before you? How can their witness encourage you? Are you living a life that will encourage others? How is your faith surrounding others?