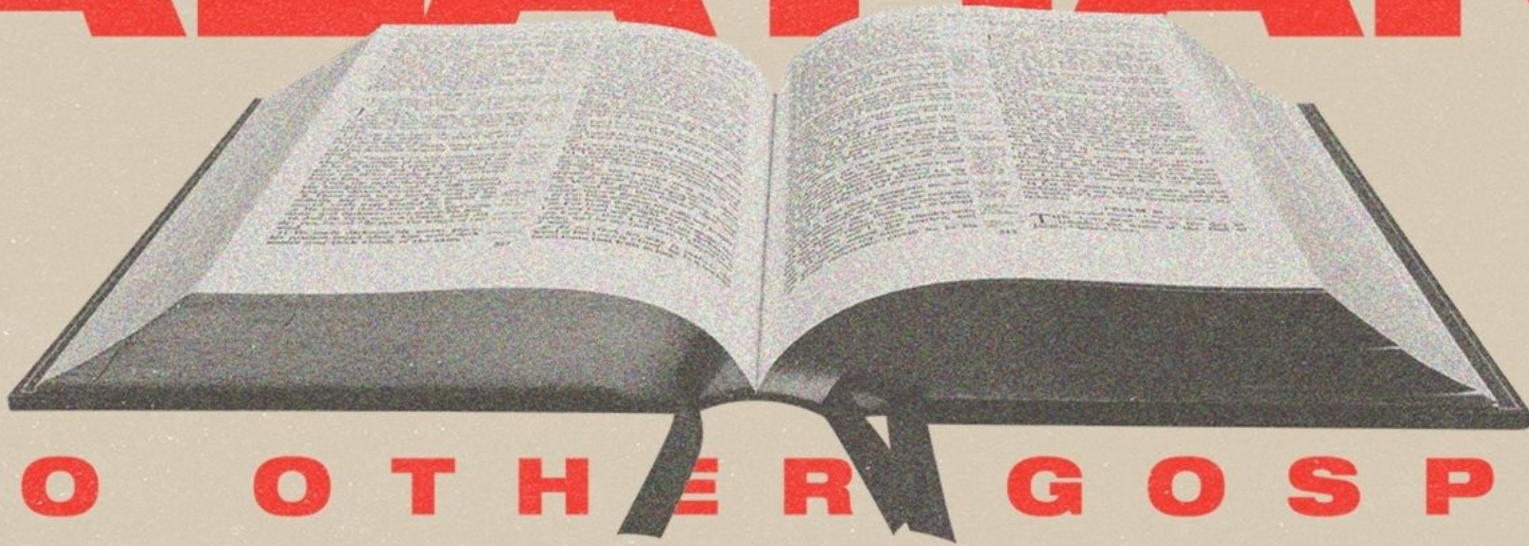


GALATIANS



NO OTHER GOSPEL



NO LONGER SLAVES

Galatians 4:1–7



Galatians 4:1-7 (ESV)

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Heirs vs Household Slaves

- ◆ I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything,² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father.
- ◆ In practical terms, an underage heir had little more freedom than a household slave.
- ◆ Though the heir was destined to inherit everything, he remained under the authority of guardians and managers until the appointed time.

Spiritual Slaves

- ◆³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.
- ◆ ... we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. (NIV)
- ◆²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. (ESV)
- ◆ Before Christ, both Jew and Gentile were in bondage: Israel under the law, the nations under false gods and the enslaving powers of the world. All were unable to rescue themselves.

The Fullness of Time

- ◆ **4 But when the fullness of time had come...**
- ◆ A vast Roman Empire connecting much of the Mediterranean world.
- ◆ An unprecedented network of roads, trade routes, and travel.
- ◆ A widely shared international language: Koine Greek.
- ◆ An increasingly interconnected world through which a message could travel.
- ◆ All of this came before explosive worldwide population growth.

God Sent His Son

- ◆ ...God sent forth his Son,
- ◆ “Christianity is a rescue religion. It declares that God has taken the initiative in Jesus Christ to rescue us from our sins. This is the main theme of the Bible.” – Stott
- ◆ We were captive, condemned, and powerless to rescue ourselves.
- ◆ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. – John 3:17 (ESV)

Born of Woman

- ◆ **...born of woman, born under the law,**
- ◆ Jesus did not begin to exist in Bethlehem. He is the eternal Son of God, who has always existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit, fully divine and eternally God.
- ◆ “The phrase “born of woman” is used elsewhere in Scripture as a common Jewish expression denoting simply one’s status as a human being.” (The New American Commentary)
- ◆ And the Word became flesh, and lived among us. – John 1:14a (NTFE)

The Son of God became a man to enable men
to become sons of God.

– C.S. Lewis

Born Under The Law

- ◆ **...born under the law,**
- ◆ Jesus was born into Israel under the Mosaic covenant and willingly submitted to its obligations.
- ◆ He was circumcised and presented according to the law – Luke 2:21-24
- ◆ He participated in synagogue worship – Luke 4:16
- ◆ He observed Israel's appointed feasts – John 7
- ◆ He came not to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it – Matt. 5:17

Redemption & Adoption

- ◆ **5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.**
- ◆ To **redeem** means to secure the release of someone held in bondage - to liberate them from the power under which they were held.
- ◆ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us... - Galatians 3:13a (ESV)
- ◆ Christ redeemed us so that we might be adopted into God's family as sons and heirs.

God Sent The Spirit

- ◆ **6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”**
- ◆ The law was and is unable to produce true sons of God – that is the work of the Spirit.
- ◆ The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are God’s children. – Romans 8:16 (NET)
- ◆ Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things that are freely given to us by God. – 1 Corinthians 2:12 (NET)

No Longer A Slave – A Son and Heir

- ◆⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.
- ◆ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” – Romans 8:15 (ESV)
- ◆ The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him. – Ephesians 1:14 (NLT)

Slave Mindset vs Sonship Mindset

Area	Slave-Oriented	Sonship-Oriented
 Identity	I must prove I belong.	I know I belong.
 Obedience	I obey for acceptance.	I obey from acceptance.
 Failure	Failure threatens my place.	Failure drives me to the Father.
 Discipline	Correction means rejection.	Correction is loving training.
 Prayer	I draw back in fear.	I draw near with confidence.
 Provision	I must earn what I receive.	My Father will provide.
 Others	Their blessing threatens me.	Their blessing doesn't diminish mine.
 Suffering	Pain means He's absent.	Pain does not cancel His presence.
 Holiness	I obey to keep my place.	I pursue holiness because I'm His.
 Service	I serve for approval.	I serve from love.