

Galatians 4:1-4

Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law

- V1. heir - a son to eventually have an inheritance, and work with and for the Father. One who would be able to be involved with the Father's business. Having the ability to discuss the business with the Father. Used here in a legal sense referring to one able to operate the business.
- child - a minor at any stage of life, not having the privileges of the heir.

- V3. children - *nepos*, one mentally or spiritually immature, not able to handle the responsibilities and privileges of adulthood. These children had everything spelled out and dictated to them, resulting in a type of bondage. What to do, what to wear, where to go, rules for everything.

- The bondage of the children under the tutor is the essence of legalism, bondage and control.
- Elements - *stoichonos*, (Colossians 2:8-rudiments) signifies teaching by rules and regulations, has the idea of orderly rows and ranks. Everything lined up and laid out.

“This is the heart of legalism, legalism is nothing but a group of lists. Legalism says there are certain outward things you must do in order to be accepted by God.”

–David Jeremiah

The Fullness of Times

- Fullness - the exact, pre-planned time. The perfect moment in history.
 1. A Time of Religious Desperation - Jews were looking for a Messiah to deliver them from Rome, the Gentile world was become more and more religious.
 2. A Time of Cultural Readiness- The Hellenistic Greek culture had swept the known world. Common (Koine) Greek, a very clear and specific language, was the trade language of the “world.”
 3. A Time of Peace - Pax Romania-Roman Peace was a work. Roman legions provided safety and control. Roman Roads opened travel. A perfect environment for the spread of the Gospel.