

“FREEDOM!”

Galatians Chapter 4

➤ Three Keys to FREEDOM:

KEY #1 – BE FREE FROM SLAVERY! (v1-7)

(v1-3) Let’s read verse 29 of chapter 3 to take in the context. The child is an heir of the promise, but is no different from an outside slave as he is a child, since the child is not old enough nor mature enough to receive the inheritance; thus they are under a *guardian* (one that takes care of the child) and a *steward* (one who manages the property until the child comes of age/maturity) until the *father’s appointed time*. *Bondage under the elements of the world* speaks of human religious systems that enslave man, but Christ sets us free! (**Colossians 2:20-23** - *Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations — “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” which all concern things which perish with the using — according to the commandments and doctrines of men?*)

(v4-5) *But when the fullness of the time had come* (cp. **Luke 19:28-41**) – God had spoken through His prophets from Genesis to Malachi regarding *the how, the when, the where, and the why* of His Son coming and the redemption that He would have for those who believe. By believing in Jesus Christ as ones personal Lord and Savior, we’re also adopted as sons of God.

(v6-7) We are now free from the slavery of sin, to this world, and to our flesh; we are adopted children of our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ and we can cry out “*Abba, Father!*” “*Abba*” means “papa” or some have said “daddy.” (**Ephesians 1:3-6** - *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, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*) Salvation is free for you and me, but it cost the Son of God His life; we owed a debt we could not pay, He paid a debt He did not owe. (As an heir of God through Christ we receive: (1) the riches of His GRACE – **Ephesians 1:7**; (2) the riches of His WISDOM – **Romans 2:4**; (3) the riches of His GOODNESS – **Romans 11:33**; (4) the riches of His GLORY – **Philippians 4:19**.)

KEY #2 – BE FREE FROM RELIGION! (v8-20)

(v8-11) Worshiping God on certain days does not make you saved, in other words religious regulations can’t redeem you (**Romans 14:1-6**; **Colossians 2:16-17**).

(v12-18) Paul makes an emotional appeal regarding the genuine love relationship in Christ they had all experienced. Paul also shares that the motives of the Judaizers were not pure. The Judaizers wanted the Galatians to be zealous for their religious system.

(v19-20) Paul’s not a quitter! He’s willing to *labor in birth again* for these Galatians to *form Christ in them*. We must follow this example and never give up on backsliders or those enslaved to religious cults.

KEY #3 – BE FREE FROM THE LAW! (v21-31)

- John MacArthur writes, “In this passage, Paul uses historical people and places from the OT to illustrate spiritual truth. The story of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, and Isaac is actual history and has no secret or hidden meaning. Paul uses it only as an illustration to support his contrast between law and grace. Paul uses the two mothers, their two sons, and two locations as a further illustration of two covenants. Hagar, Ishmael, and Mt. Sinai (earthly Jerusalem) represent the covenant of law; Sarah, Isaac and the heavenly Jerusalem the covenant of promise. However, Paul cannot be contrasting these two covenants as different ways of salvation, one way for OT saints, another for NT saints—a premise he has already denied (2:16; 3:10–14, 21, 22). The purpose of the Mosaic Covenant was only to show all who were under its demands and condemnation their desperate need for salvation by grace alone (3:24)—it was never intended to portray the way of salvation. Paul’s point is that those, like the Judaizers, who attempt to earn righteousness by keeping the law receive only bondage and condemnation (3:10, 23). While those who partake of salvation by grace—the only way of salvation since Adam’s sin—are freed from the law’s bondage and condemnation. *Mount Sinai* an appropriate symbol for the old covenant, since it was at Mt. Sinai that Moses received the law (Ex. 19). *Hagar* since she was Sarah’s slave (Gen. 16:1), Hagar is a fitting illustration of those under bondage to the law (cf. vv. 5, 21; 3:23). She was actually associated with Mt. Sinai through her son Ishmael, whose descendants settled in that region.”

(Read Revelation Chapters 21 & 22 for a description of the New Jerusalem!)