GALATIANS
Children of God
Galatians 4:1-20
Week 7 November 8, 2026
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If you had the greatest gift in the world, what would cause you to turn away from it?

ALL IN THE FAMILY

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.
Galatians 4:10-7 ESV

Under the law the minor heir and servant are not free.
Under any other religion we would be constrained and not free.

Our salvation at receiving Jesus as our Savior and Lord not only clears our debt but makes us a member of the family. An heir.

The fullness of time also reflected the condition of the world.

Rome had united most of the world under one authority. Along with that came the Roman road that allowed people to travel from region to region. It would allow Christian missionaries to move from place to place to share the gospel.

At the time of our salvation we receive the Spirit of the Son into our hearts.

ONE STEP FORWARD TWO STEPS BACK

However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years. 11 I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain. Galatians 4:8-11 NIV

Three reasons Paul was astonished:

1. They were going back to an old way of living.
2. They were turning from reality to non-reality.
3. This was done after they had come to know God in a real way.

What God has begun in you He will continue until the day Christ returns.

GOD'S PLAN

Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. 13 You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, 14 and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. 15 What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. 16 Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? Galatians 4:12-16 ESV

The city of Derbe is in the region of Galatia. While he was there recuperating Paul gave them the gospel.

When people turn on you we still have to treat them with love.

BE CAREFUL WHO YOU LISTEN TO

They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them. 18 But it is good always to be eagerly sought in a commendable manner, and not only when I am present with you. 19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you— 20 but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.
Galatians 4:17-20 NIV

The zeal of the Judaizers had the effect of alienating the Galatians from both Paul and Christ.

Paul wishes he could be with them so they could hear his tone to know he is speaking to them in love.

UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN YOU

The goal of our relationship with Jesus is to become a biblical world thinker.

Do not let anyone pull you away from Jesus.