

"Doctrine of Justification and Sanctification"

Galatians 3-4

Part 7

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of *Galatians* we have come to chapter 4. As we enter into this chapter Paul is still using the thought from *Galatians* 3:24-26.

Notice *Galatians* 3:24-26

Here Paul was talking about how the Law serves the purpose of bringing to the sinner to Jesus Christ by bringing conviction and guilt into the sinner's life. Paul also states that after faith is exercised there is no longer a need for a school master. Then in verse 26 Paul emphasizes that believers are now the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Now as we come to *Galatians* 4 Paul will illustrate this very truth.

➤ **The Blessings of Sonship**

Notice *Galatians* 4:1-2

Here Paul uses the illustration of a Roman family. When they had a child, the child was to be the heir of the estate but while he was a child he was no different than a slave. He would be under the authority of a servant/guardian who was assigned to discipline and to instruct the child. The child was the heir of his father's estate but he had no privileges to the inheritance while he was a child. This went on until a time that was determined by the father of the child. The age when the child was considered that he no longer needed a guardian varied between societies. Many times, it was at the age of 15 or 16. The Jews, Romans and Grecians were all different. But the point which Paul is making is that the child is under the guardian until a time determined by the father. Under Roman law the event was called a *Toga Virilis*.

Notice *Galatians* 4:3

Now Paul applies this to the *Galatians*. He explains that when they were children or when they were unsaved, they too were in bondage to the elements of the world. What were the elements of the world? Walvoord sees this as elementary stages of religious practices. The Jews were in bondage under the Law and the Gentiles were in bondage to the worship systems of their heathen false gods. Every person who is unsaved is in bondage to some belief concerning the afterlife. The atheist is in bondage to his belief that there is no God and that this is all there is. The religious Gentile is in bondage to the god that he or she has created in their own minds. Not only are the unsaved in bondage to sin but they are also in bondage to their heathen gods.

Notice Galatians 4:4

Now Paul makes spiritual application with these thoughts. Just as the father of the child determined when the child was to be free of the guardian in the same way our Heavenly Father made the decision as to when He would send His Son into the world. Jesus came in the fullness of time but what does this mean?

There were 400 years of silence between the Old Testament and the Gospels. But while God was silent, He was moving the events in the world in preparation of the coming of Jesus Christ. During this time, the Greek language was developed which proved to be language that was accepted across the world and became the common trade language. Therefore, when Jesus was born this language would be the means of telling the Gospel to the world. Then there was the Roman rule that brought about significant changes. The Romans developed a tremendous road system that would allow believers to travel to take the Gospel to far away lands. Then there was the authority of the Romans which took away the Jew's right to execute their own prisoners. Under Judaism people were stoned or hanged but under Roman law they were crucified which would be the fulfillment of prophecy.

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

The word "wounded" means to "pierce through with a fatal blow". It speaks of the crucifixion of Jesus.

There was yet another situation that existed. It was the anticipation of a coming Deliverer. Notice the words of Wiersbe.

"Historians tell us that the Roman world was in great expectation, waiting for a Deliverer, at the time when Jesus was born. The old religions were dying; the old philosophies were empty and powerless to change men's lives. Strange new mystery religions were invading the empire. Religious bankruptcy and spiritual hunger were everywhere. God was preparing the world for the arrival of His Son."

So, when we read that Jesus came in the fulness of time we can now understand that while God was silent for 400 years, He was not idle. He was bringing about the perfect situation for the arrival of the Redeemer.

Notice Galatians 4:4 again.

The next thing we read is that Jesus was "made of a woman." This is a reference to two things. It is a reference to the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus was not made of a man but He was made of a woman.

Genesis 3:14-15

¹⁴ And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The statement is also a reference to the humanity of Jesus Christ. Both of these points are vitally important. Jesus had to be a human to die for the human race and he had to be born of a virgin so that He had no earthly father because an earthly father would have passed a sin nature on to Him.

Notice Galatians 4:4 again.

Jesus was born under the Law. He was a Jew who was under the Law and He kept the Law perfectly which qualified Him to be the sinless Substitute that would die for all of mankind.

Notice Galatians 4:5

Here we see what Jesus has done for us. He redeemed those who were under the Law. This means He purchased them with His blood and He then placed us into the family of God as adult children. Last week I mentioned that the Bible tells us that we are born again and that we are adopted. To be born again is to be made alive by the Spirit. We were once dead in our sins but now we are born again which is a literal birth and in that birth we are given life eternal.

John 11:25-26

²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Because Jesus is God He had the power to redeem us and because He is man He has the right and the ability to redeem us.

Now because we are adopted sons, we have equal privileges in the family and equal status as heirs. Our adoption places us in the family of God as adult children so there is no need to be under a guardian. We now have access to the promises of God.

Notice Galatians 4:6

Here we see the assurance of our sonship. God has placed within each of us His Spirit crying Abba Father. This means that in our relationship with our Father we are so close that we can call Him "Daddy." That is an intimate term. Let me explain this so that we can better grasp what Paul is saying here. When Jesus walked that face of the earth, He had 11 disciples that he walked and worked with. There were three of them, however, that were closer than the others. They were Peter, James, and John. Out of these three John was closer than all the others. But we need to understand that we have the opportunity to get even closer to Him than John did. You see His Spirit lives within each one of us who are believers. People often say, "I wish I could have walked and talked with Jesus while He was on earth." Well, we have something even better. He lives within us and He never leaves. He is always within us. Is that not a humbling thought? The Creator of the world is in living in us each and every day!

Romans 8:9-10

⁹ *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

¹⁰ *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

¹⁴ *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

Notice Galatians 4:7

Now all believers are heir of God.

Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴ *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

¹⁵ *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

¹⁶ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Notice some thoughts by Wiersbe on being a son and not a servant.

- ✓ *The son has the same nature as the father, but the servant does not.*
- ✓ *The son has a father, while the servant has a master.*
- ✓ *The son obeys out of love, while the servant obeys out of fear.*
- ✓ *The son is rich, while the servant is poor.*
- ✓ *The son has a future, while the servant does not.*

Notice Galatians 4:8-9

Now Paul reminds them that they are no longer servants to the false heathen gods that they once worshipped but now they were the sons of God. Now they had liberty in Jesus Christ to enjoy life. Why then would they desire to go back under the bondage that they were set free from?

Application:

It is good for us to remember what we were saved from in our past.

Ephesians 2:1-5

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Notice Galatians 4:10

Here in this verse Paul reminds the Galatians that if they were to go under the Law it would control every part of their lives. The days were controlled because they had to work 6 and rest 1. The months and times were controlled by the feasts that had been established under the Law. The years were also controlled because there were sabbatical years and the year of jubilee. The Law went as far as to tell the people what they could eat and what they could not eat. The question then would be, "Why would you want to be under this bondage when Jesus Christ has set us free?"

Notice Galatians 4:11

This is an interesting statement made by Paul. He was concerned that he had labored in vain. It was not that he was concerned that they were not saved because he knew they were. He was concerned for their spiritual growth. Their sanctification was just as important as their justification.

Conclusion:

Many in the church have lost sight of the fact that God desires our sanctification as much as our justification. It is great when people get saved but that is only the beginning. God wants us to grow and to magnify Jesus Christ with our lives.

Philippians 1:20-21

²⁰ According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.