

Introduction: Galatians So Far

Under the influence of Jewish false teachers, the Galatians have been tempted to abandon the true Gospel and its implications (1:6–7). Paul first reminds them of his own biography and the grace of Christ who set him apart as an Apostle (1:11–17), his agreement with the Jerusalem Apostles concerning the Gospel (1:18–2:10), and his own willingness to confront Peter over how the Gospel impacts Jew/Gentile relations (2:11–14). He then lays out his primary theological argument (2:15–21) and supports it with an examination of key OT texts to explain God’s purposes in the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants (3:1–29) and showing how the promise, the Law, and faith ultimately find their proper place in relation to Christ.

Main Point: Through the _____ work of Christ and the sending of His Spirit, we have received _____ and are now sons and heirs of God.

Galatians 4:1-7

- **God placed Israel under the Law _____, but _____.** (vv. 1-3)

(1) Paul further explains his example of an heir to an estate.

“...the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything;”

(2) The heir remains _____ as a child until he comes of age.

“guardians”

“managers”

(3) This metaphor is compared to the situation of _____ under the Law.

➤ As in the previous passage, the “we” here refers to _____ Jews.

➤ He uses the imagery to highlight their position of _____.

“enslaved”—δουλόω (douloō)—to make one subservient to one’s interests, cause to be like a slave

➤ In their immaturity under the Law, they were bound to relate to God in _____ ways. These were the first principles or basic teachings (Heb. 5:12-13).

“elementary principles”

Key Point: Being under the Law is associated with _____ and _____.

- **God intervened decisively in history on humanity’s behalf through the _____ of Christ.** (vv. 4-5)

(1) Jesus Christ came at the perfect time to _____ God’s purposes. – *“the fullness of time”*

(2) Jesus Christ is the divine preexistent _____ sent from the Father. – *“God sent forth his Son”*

(3) Jesus Christ shared our true _____, having been born as we are. – *“born of a woman”*

(4) Jesus Christ a lived a _____ life as a Law-observant Jew. – *“born under the law”*

“Jesus’ sinlessness is confirmed...in the Gospels. There are reports of temptation, but none of sin. Nothing reported of him is in conflict with God’s revealed law of right and wrong; everything he did was in conjunction with the Father. Thus...we must conclude that the Bible uniformly witnesses to the sinlessness of Christ.” – M. Erickson

(5) Jesus Christ came to _____ those the Law judged to be transgressors. – *“to redeem those...under the law”*

“Christ on the cross endured the curse of the Law, indeed the curse that falls on Lawbreakers, his execution being the carrying out of the curse...Christ was born under the Law, and endured the curse that fell on Lawbreakers, not because Paul thinks he was such, but on behalf of those that were.” – B. Witherington

(6) Jesus Christ's redemptive work made it possible for sinners to become _____ of God by faith.
“adoption”

“The divine act of adoption was rooted not solely in the need to secure heirs, but in the love of God for humanity. The adoption of humanity into God's family encompassed not only the practical and legal realm but also the loving will of the Father...God sent Jesus so that he could redeem humanity from under the Law and so that those who believe could be adopted into God's family as sons, just as Jesus is God's Son.” – M. Burer

Key Point: Redemption in Christ delivers us from _____ and into _____.

• **God has given the Holy Spirit to bear _____ to our sonship. (vv. 6-7).**

(1) Paul tells them that sending the Holy Spirit follows from the sending of His Son.
“because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts”

➤ The language here shows the _____ of purpose between the Father and Son in sending the Spirit.

➤ The Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)

➤ He is likely referring to their _____ experience of the Spirit's indwelling at the time of their conversion to faith in Christ. (Gal. 3:3-5)

(2) The Spirit ministers to our own _____ that God is now our Father.
“crying, “Abba! Father”

➤ These words are first used by Jesus in Mark 14:36 in Gethsemane. Here, the Spirit speaks them in our hearts and in Rom. 8:15 they are our words spoken through Him.

(3) The saving work of the Triune God in making us sons has secured for us an _____.
“So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”

“Sonship truthfully implies being an heir, so the Galatians are heirs to the promises of Abraham, proving definitively that the Law has no hold over them and that they are equally part of God's family as Jews are.” – M. Burer

Key Point: The Holy Spirit _____ us of the nearness of our relationship with God and of our future together with Him.

Paul's Message to the Galatians

The Galatians should understand that the coming of Christ has accomplished redemption for Jews and Gentiles and they are now all sons and heirs through God by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Concluding Thoughts

1. Our _____ with Christ makes it possible for us to receive the inheritance He has secured.

2. Our status as full sons of God in Christ calls us to _____ in our faith.

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Main Point: Through the redeeming work of Christ and the sending of His Spirit, we have received adoption and are now sons and heirs of God.

Galatians 4:1-7

- God placed Isarel under the Law intentionally, but temporarily. (vv. 1-3)

(1) Paul further explains his example of an heir to an estate.

“...the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything;”

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(3) This metaphor is compared to the situation of Israel under the Law.

➤ As in the previous passage, the “we” here refers to believing Jews.

➤ He uses the imagery to highlight their position of servitude.

“enslaved”—δουλόω (douloō)—to make one subservient to one’s interests, cause to be like a slave

➤ In their immaturity under the Law, they were bound to relate to God in earthly ways. These were the first principles or basic teachings (Heb. 5:12-13).

“elementary principles”

Key Point: Being under the Law is associated with immaturity and childishness.

- God intervened decisively in history on humanity’s behalf through the incarnation of Christ. (vv. 4-5)

(1) Jesus Christ came at the perfect time to fulfill God’s purposes. – *“the fullness of time”*

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Key Point: Redemption in Christ delivers us from judgment and into sonship.

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(1) Paul tells them that sending the Holy Spirit follows from the sending of His Son.

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Concluding Thoughts

1. Our union with Christ makes it possible for us to receive the inheritance He has secured.

2. Our status as full sons of God in Christ calls us to maturity in our faith.