

Galatians 4:1-31 **Lessons of the Law**

God sent His Son to redeem those under the Law – Adoption as sons

¹ Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, ² but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. ³ Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

You turned back to bondage

⁸ But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? ¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹ I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

Galatians first love for Paul

¹² Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I became like you. You have not injured me at all. ¹³ You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. ¹⁴ And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

Judaizers zealously court you for no good

¹⁶ Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth? ¹⁷ They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸ But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.

Paul's yearning for the Galatians

¹⁹ My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰ I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

Lessons of the Law

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar-- ²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children-- ²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. ²⁷ For it is written:

"Rejoice, O barren,
You who do not bear!
Break forth and shout,
You who are not in labor!
For the desolate has many more children
Than she who has a husband." [Isaiah 54:1]

Children of Promise / Children of bondage

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. 29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

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Facts Revealed:

God sent His Son to redeem those under the Law – Adoption as sons [Galatians 4:1-7]

- ✚ Paul compares those under the Law to children under guardians and stewards. [Galatians 4:1-2]
- ✧ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. [Galatians 3:23-26]
- ✧ There is an appointed time when a child becomes an adult and a full heir.
- ✧ When we were children we were slaves under bondage to the elements of the world.
- ✧ When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
- ✧ God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!"
- ✧ Now you are no longer a slave but a son and heir of God through Christ.

You turned back to bondage [Galatians 4:8-11]

- ✧ It was understandable when you did not know God that you served those which are not gods.
- ✧ After you knew God, and are known by God, why did you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you now desire again to be in bondage?
 - ✧ You observe days, months, seasons, and years.
- ✧ I fear for you, lest I labored for you in vain.

Galatians first love for Paul [Galatians 4:12-15]

- ✚ Paul contemplates the loving reception he first received from the Galatians.
- ✧ Here we see a glimpse of the thorn in the flesh Paul mentioned. [2 Corinthians 12:7-10]
- ✧ It was an affliction of the eyes to the extent that if possible, the Galatians would have plucked out their own eyes and given them to Paul.
- ✧ It might possibly have been a severe allergy that afflicted the eyes.
- ✧ Even with that grotesque situation, they had received Paul as an angel of God.

Judaizers zealously court you for no good [Galatians 4:16-18]

- ✚ They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.
- ✧ False apostles, false prophets, and false teachers usually hold a common goal, and that is to entice unsuspecting believers to follow themselves, luring them away from the clear teaching of Scripture.
- ✧ Godly zeal in a sound doctrine is a good thing at all time.
- ✧ Zeal for error is always dangerous.

Paul's yearning for the Galatians [Galatians 4:19-20]

- ✚ Paul desires to be present with the Galatians, because of the doubts that have been aroused.

Lessons of the Law [Galatians 4:21-27]

- ✚ Abraham's two sons:
 - ✧ The first of the Bondwoman according to the flesh representing the Law from Mount Sinai.

- ✧ Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and earthly Jerusalem whose children are in bondage.
- ✧ The second of the Freewoman according to promise, representing the Jerusalem from above whose children are free.
- ✧ Prophecy fulfilled:

"Rejoice, O barren,
You who do not bear!
Break forth and shout,
You who are not in labor!
For the desolate has many more children
Than she who has a husband." [\[Isaiah 54:1\]](#)

Children of Promise / Children of bondage [\[Galatians 4:28-31\]](#)

- ✧ Believers are children of promise just as was Isaac.
- ✧ Those of the flesh (Law) persecute the children of promise (believers) just as did Ishmael the son of the bondwoman, persecute Isaac the son of the freewoman.
- ✧ What does Scripture say?

"Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." [\[Genesis 21:10, 12, Matthew 8:11-12, Luke 13:28-29\]](#)

- ✧ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.