

THE EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS

CHAPTER 4:1-7

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“JUST IN TIME!”

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Eternity, Salvation, Time, Law

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Galatians 4:1-7

Remember When

We were little and we'd take a measuring rod and mark the wall in inches so we could monitor our growth. It seemed at times that the very ruler that I was using to encourage me in my growth was in fact working against me! It seemed as though time was just dragging by so slowly
Because I never could grow as fast and as tall as I wanted.

Why?

Because the ruler, the yardstick couldn't help me grow, it only measured my shortcomings. The yardstick measured my height against its numbers – it would help me to become bigger or better

What a liberating eye-opener is a correct understanding of why God gave mankind the Ten Commandments, and Old Testaments Laws. Man cannot be trusted to properly evaluate himself before God's standards. We have a tendency to justify our own position or actions. The Law was given to level the playing field before God. Man outside of Jesus Christ is under the judgement of the Law. But a man in Christ, a man alive unto Christ, is a man who is freed to live life in this world in and through the power of God.

Paul Teaches Us Here By Contrasting Truths “JUST” IN TIME

1.) *What we were – “Children of bondage”* vv. 1-3

Now I say that the heir, **as long as** he is a child, he 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, we were in bondage under the elements of the world

a.) *Locked inside - of what we were* v.1

Now I say that the heir, **as long as** he is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all

In That Culture

The Child, who is heir to the throne, was still bound to childish things.

He was Emotional, Temperamental, Foolish, and Unpredictable just like any child.

Born free or born a slave

Our Previous Condition before Christ

The Picture is of Us

Heirs to Salvation - - yet unconverted, we were Emotionally controlled, Temperamental in our moods, Foolish about decisions, Unpredictable in nature

Ephesians 4:18-19

those that are lost are those who - having their understanding darkened, are being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

“As long as he is a child...”

In The Days of the Ancient World

The Roman’s Practiced Toga Virilis / The Jews, Bar Mitzvah

The Roman child at age 18

The new man would present his childhood toys before various Greek gods as a testimony that this young man has put away the things of his childhood and has now become an adult in a New World

Paul used this “Carnal Logic of Rome” to the Church at Corinth...

1 Corinthians 13:11

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

What we were – “Children of bondage”

b.) Pinned down - by the things of our past v.2

but is under guardians and stewards
until the time appointed by the father

“the guardians and stewards”

Both acted solely upon the interest of the father and family. A child was completely under their tutorship, discipline, teaching, and welfare. The guardians (personal care) and stewards (house managers) were with the child at all times with the will of the family as their orders

In A Sense, The Child was Pinned to the Will of Another – Just like a Slave

What we were – “Children of bondage”

c.) Held captive – by lesser powers

v.3

Even so we, when we were children,
we were in bondage **under the elements of the world**



elements (-tal) grk

the basic foundational letters used for writing. The starter to a linguistic discipline = The ABC's of any language.

Laws and Rules - In The Negative Sense

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

John Wesley

The MacArthur new testament commentary on Galatians.

(Page 105-6)

**Legalism is not a step forward to maturity, but rather it is a step
back into childish – immaturity!
Christ is Our Graduation**

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

No one sits in a library and recites his ABC's
when so many books are around him. If he's
mature, he's going to get up and start reading,
learning, and enjoying new facts and lessons

The Law served as a custodian that taught us our ABC's
But now that Jesus is here, we're to be reading, learning, enjoying
the fact that - *we know God.*

Christian Life is Marked by Joy

Luke 10:20

"Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Nehemiah 8:10

...Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

“JUST” IN TIME

2.) *What God did – “He Redeemed us”* vv. 4-5

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.

a.) *By foreordaining the exact moment* v.4

But when the fullness of the time had come,

At just the right time

OR, JUST IN TIME

God uses Human government

The empires of history that have existed - God predicted every one of them in the Bible. God ordained the great “shaping empires” of history: Egyptian,

Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman Empires down to our current global political scheme. (Roman)

It was exactly at the right time

- He established the Greek language around the world through Alexander the Great
- God raised up the Roman Empire and they built roads connecting the ancient world.
- History itself was positioned by God at just the right crossroad so that mankind could look back to confirm, and look ahead to watch

Didn't God tell us that His son was to be born in Bethlehem 600 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem? – YES!!!

Luke 2:1-6

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

Daniel 2:20-21

Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. 21 And He changes the times and the seasons; he removes kings and raises up kings;

"...The Lord establishes the nations and determines their borders to the ends of the earth."

Look At
What is Happening Right Now in the World Today

The events are telling a tale
The nations are getting into a position that God
has ordained.

- India and Pakistan are on the brink of nuclear war
- Israel and the Arab world will go to war
- The rise of the United States of Europe and the power of the Euro will overshadow the strength and power of the United States and the dollar
- China will become the next military superpower
- Something will happen to America to weaken it before the eyes of the world
- And Rome will once again rise to power in the last days

What God did – “He Redeemed us”

b.) By preparing the true Mediator

v.4

God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those who were under the law,

God sent forth His Son

The Sending and The Son

The Sending was of divine agreement - The Sonship was of exact Equality

Jesus wasn't less than the Holy Spirit, nor the Father.
He willingly took upon himself the mission to redeem - - to become human, live as a human, and to die as a human...

**In The Middle East Culture and Mind,
The Son is all that that Father is...**

The Kenosis

The emptying or pouring out, a willful act of meekness

Philippians 2:5-7

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:5-7 – amplified version

Your attitude should be modeled like the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ while on earth, 6 who, though he was God on earth, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, 7 but he willingly laid aside his many of his mighty powers and glory, so that he would disguise himself in the form of a servant by becoming a human being.

John 1:1-4, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.... 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 John 1:1-3

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

By preparing the true Mediator

John 14:6-10

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men,
the Man (his humanity) Christ (his divinity) Jesus (his name),

It's what King David Meant When He Said...

Psalm 110:1

The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,
till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

Proverbs 30:4

Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His
fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of
the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?

Mark 12:35-37

Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, "How is it that the scribes
say that the Christ is the Son of David? 36 "For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: 'The
Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ' 37
"Therefore David himself calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?" And the common

born under the law (*Jesus, by law, was legally perfect*)
to redeem those who were **under the law**
(*mankind, by law, was legally imperfection*)

“under”

meaning to be obligated to keep it in its totality

born under obligated to keep it in its totality **the law**
(*Jesus, by law, is legally perfect*)

to redeem those who were **under** obligated to keep it in its totality
the law, (*mankind, by law, is legally imperfection*)

Romans 8:3

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His
own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God,

What God did – “He Redeemed us”

c.) *By giving us a new life*

v.5

that we might receive **the adoption** as sons.



Adoption grk 5206 huiotesia (hwee-oth-es-ee'-ah);

“the placing” – the putting of one as a son into a family by the father or patriarch. To enter in with full privilege. To start out with seniority.

When I was hatched my mother was stuck with me.
But if you were adopted, you were hand-picked to be in that family

What a Privilege / What an Honor

God's Timing and Redemption

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: "In an **acceptable time** I have heard you, and **in the day of salvation** I have helped you." Behold, **now is the accepted time**; behold, **now is the day of salvation**.

Not as children, but as sons !!!

THIS IS A POWERFUL ARGUMENT FOR OUR POSITION IN CHRIST.

The moment we were born again, we were translated from being children of this world, to being sons of God through Jesus Christ

“JUST” IN TIME

3.) *What we are – “Sons and heirs”*

vv. 6-7

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.

a.) *God has guaranteed our inheritance*

v.6

And because you are sons,
God **has sent forth** the Spirit of His Son (Holy Spirt) into your hearts

because **you are sons**,

A statement of fact. An actual and factual standing

The Born Again Experience

John 14:16-18

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- 17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

and at the time of His crucifixion and death, Jesus had been separated from them - left them in person...

But just after His resurrection Jesus said in

John 20:21-22

"Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

b.) God has placed us in His family

v.6

... the Spirit of His Son into your hearts,
crying out, "Abba, (aramaic) papa (italian) daddy (english) - Father!"

The Shout of Boldness and Security

It Comes from God, the Holy Spirit!!!
It is the Holy Spirit that resides in you, who encourages

Romans 8:15-16

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

What we are – "Sons and heirs"

c.) God has reserved for us all that we could need v.7

Therefore you are **no longer a slave but a son**, and if a son,
then an heir of God through Christ.

no longer a slave - but a son

The Difference Between Slaves and Sons

God has reserved for us all that we could need

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore Jesus is able to save to completion those who come to God through Him,
since He forever lives to make intercession for them.

Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Application

The roman world had two steps to the redemption of a slave.

#1 - the slave was first given his freedom privately.

#2 - Then a time was appointed by his master for a public announcement of the final redemption.

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

There are "life situations" that God will allow into your life to reveal to you - your spiritual fiber. It is His way of showing us what we're really made of spiritually- - and that is determined by hardships and difficulties.

"JUST" IN TIME

God will fulfill all that He has spoken

"JUST" IN TIME

The Holy Spirit will bring you through that thing of life

"JUST" IN TIME

Jesus Christ will return for us...

Church - Prepare your life for some very difficult days ahead