

# THE EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS

## CHAPTER 4:7-11

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“BACK TO THE FUTURE?”**

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Backsliding, Legalism, Salvation, Law**

**INTRODUCTION**

*to the text*

*Galatians 4:7-11*

### **Jesus taught it as “essential” and with no doubt**

Paul was preaching it, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:4-7

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

### **Peter put it this way...**

1 Peter 1:22-23

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

# “BACK TO THE FUTURE?”

**1.) *The Future is in being a son and an heir***

**vv. 7**

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

**a.) *Because God has guaranteed our inheritance***

***Look at Verse 7 and the "Therefore"***

It Demands of Us to Look  
back at Our Future!

**Our Relationship with God is Secured  
in the Person of the Holy Spirit**

**Verse 6**

**Looking Back to Our Future  
- Verse 6**

“...And because you are sons, (a statement of fact)  
God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son (Holy Spirit) into your hearts

**A 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,

## The ...“into” your hearts Is 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.

## The “Indwelling” is Simultaneous with Conversion

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

# *The Future is in being a son and an heir*

## **Verse 7**

We are sons and heirs of God **through Christ**.

Ephesians 2:7

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Romans 8:37

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him (Christ) who loved us.

## **“BACK TO THE FUTURE?”**

### **2.) *The Future is – in God’s complete plan***

**vv. 8-9**

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?

### **Paul Repeats Again His Core Concern**

“...how is it that you “**turn again**” - (the slightest change in course) to the weak and beggarly elements”

## ***Earlier He Said...***

Galatians 1:6-7a

I marvel that you are **turning away** so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another...

**(the slightest shift of weight)**

The Way is So Beautiful, Sweet, Pure, and Right...

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

## ***The Future is – in God's complete plan***

***a.) His plan is patient***

### ***Verse 8***

8 **But then**, indeed, when you did not know God, you **served** those which by nature are **not gods**.

## **What Patience!**

Rom 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## **Remember When You Didn't Know God?**

when you did not know God,

>>>>>>> Hook in Nose <<<<<<<

## *The Future is – in God’s complete plan*

### *b.) His plan is grace*

#### **Verse 9**

**But now** after you have known God,  
or rather are known by God,

The “**But now**” Statement  
In the original Greek language demands that there has been  
**a New Beginning**

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away;  
behold, all things have become new.

“SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE”  
*THE FIFTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL WHO CRIED*  
*“I WISH I COULD START LIFE OVER AGAIN”*

Jesus Does That for Us Both Now and Forever...

Revelation 21:3-6

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

#### **Verse 9**

after **you have known** God,  
or rather **are known by God**,

It's a wonderful thing  
when a man can say that he knows God.

But it's even a more wonderful thing  
if God can say "I know that man"

John 10:4

"And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

John 10:14

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

John 10:27-28

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

People will ask - - "Have you found Jesus?"

## **But The Blessing is – Jesus found me!**

Like the little boy that went to Sunday school and the Sunday school teacher asked him, "son have you found Jesus?" Each week that teacher would ask him if he had found Jesus and with each week - that teacher's question got a little bit more passionate. Until one Sunday that little boy told his mother, "mama – I never want to go back to that church again". "Why?" asked his mother. "Because every week they ask me if I've found Jesus – I think they've lost him and they're trying to pin it on me."

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### ***The Future is – in God's complete plan***

#### ***c.) His plan is mercy***

how is it that you **turn again** to the **weak** and **beggarly** elements,  
to which you desire again to be in bondage?

to turn again

is to be “going back” to the beginning  
– but there’s nothing there

I’m Born Again Now – But I Need to Go Back  
Hey Mom – I need to do this Birthing Thing Over

But Then (verse 8) – But Now (verse 9)  
Why would any man go back?

Hebrews 10:38

Now the just shall live by faith; - - but if anyone **draws back**,  
my soul has no pleasure in him."

*What was Paul saying to them?*

*What is the Holy Spirit saying to the Church?*

*What will the Lord say to Me?*

2 Corinthians 13:5

**Examine yourselves** as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-- unless indeed you are disqualified.

**“BACK TO THE FUTURE?”**

**3.) The future is – in Jesus Christ**

**vv. 10-11**

10 You observe days and months and seasons and years.

11 I am afraid **for** you, lest I have labored for you in vain.



## ***“The future is – in Jesus Christ”***

### ***a.) The past pointed toward the future***

#### ***Verse 10***

You observe **days** and **months** and **seasons** and **years**.

The Galatians were Gentiles by and large.  
Act like a Jew, worship like a Jew, become a  
Jew by doing these external things

## **Do These External Things** *(be like us)*

Hebrews 9:8-11

the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. 9 It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience-- 10 concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. 11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

***When I say that;  
“The future is in Jesus Christ”***

## **It's Because the Past was Fulfilled in Jesus**

### **Jesus is the Passover**

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

## Jesus is the Feast of Unleavened Bread

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

## Jesus is the Feast of Firstfruits

1 Corinthians 15:20

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

I mean that "In Jesus Christ" all the Old Testament required – the keeping of the Sabbath' day, the New Moon's, the Religious Celebrations, Annual Feasts, the Remembrances – *are all fulfilled in Jesus.*

**Matthew 5:17-18**

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

**Matthew 11:28**

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

**Hebrews 4:9-10**

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

**Colossians 2:16-17**

So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

# They were Flirting with Danger

## Hebrews 10:38-39

Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone **draws back**, my soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

## And this is what they would have gone back to

The Observation of Rites and Rituals

**The ceremonial - days and months and seasons and years.**

**The Days**

Sabbaths

---

**The Months**

New Moons

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**The Seasons**

Festivals The Passovers, Tabernacles,

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**The (times) years.**

The jubilees

People Who Want to be Legalistic  
Have a hard time with the "Substance" or the "Purpose".

**They embrace the symbolism, the icons, the pictures, the rituals**

William Barclay

"Think man - Jesus never said, 'I have come that they may have religion, and that they may have more of it.' "

John 10:10

"...I have come that they may have **life**, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Let me say that  
Legalism can be easier than faith at times

Hebrews 8:1-6

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. 4 For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; 5 who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." 6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

Hebrews 10:1-5

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me...."

Hebrews 10:10-12

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

Even Our Own Life's History  
It points to Jesus Christ

## ***“The future is – in Jesus Christ”***

### ***b.) The past could never give us “rest” – The Rest***

#### **Verse 11**

I am **afraid** **fOr** you,  
lest I have labored for you in vain.

Paul is more concerned about their souls  
- then they are themselves

Again Barkley Comments:

Paul's grand fear was that those to whom he had been careful to preach the liberating gospel were now in danger of taking that Gospel and placing it a box wrapped in rituals and rites.

Hebrews 4:10-11

For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

## **The Forever Sabbath is Now!**

This is What Paul Desired of Them, That would Remember  
what was Written...

Titus 3:5-6

...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

# How would Paul know if he had labored in vain or not?

*Would they turn back to their future in Christ? Or would they turn back to their dead-end of the past?*

Notice Here

Paul is Afraid for them, Not for Himself

He Knew Where He Stood  
- *he was concerned about them!*

Pastor Jack

How can I be sure that I am a Child of God?

#1

do you know what it means to have sinned against God?  
(not man - but God)

#2

do you know what it feels like to have your sins forgiven?

## **What is the Christian Life?**

We are to be Obeying what God has Said  
to Us

Acts 2:41-42

Then those who gladly received his word (born again – converted) were **baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they **continued steadfastly in** the apostles' **doctrine** and **fellowship**, in the **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**.

*baptized*

**We're All to be Baptized in Water as an Announcement**

*This is what Christians do - This is our  
future!*

*continued steadfastly*

**We're All to be Committed to the Things of God**

*This is what Christians do - This is our  
future!*

*in the apostles' doctrine*

**We're All to be Committed to Biblical Doctrine / Teaching**

*This is what Christians do - This is our  
future!*

*In fellowship*

**We're All to be Committed to Talking to Each Other**

*This is what Christians do - This is our  
future!*

*in the breaking of bread*

**We're All to be Committed to Knowing One Another**

*This is what Christians do - This is our  
future!*

*and in prayers*

## ***We're All to be Committed to the Worship***

*This is what Christians do - This is our future!*

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

**I S T H I S Y O U R F U T U R E ?**

**I am afraid for you,**

2 Corinthians 13:5

**- amplified version**

Carefully inspect your own heart, do a check-up on yourself. Are you really Christians? Do you pass the test of what a Christian should be? Are you experiencing Christ's presence and power more and more in your life? Or are you just pretending to be Christians as long as it benefits you - when actually you're not a Christian at all?

## **The Things That Accompany God's Love**

Hebrews 6:4-9

### **Paul Contrasts the Religious man from the Christian Man**

4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. **(let me put it to you in picture form)** 7 For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; 8 but if it brings forth thorns and briars, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.... **(there is no evidence that the farmer planted this type of crop)** 9 But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation...



# These are the Same People Jesus Spoke of

Matthew 7:20-23

"Therefore by their fruits you will know them. 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father which is in heaven. 22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not **prophesied** in Your name, **cast out** demons in Your name, and done many **wonders** in Your name?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who **practice lawlessness!** (deception)

## Concluding Application

Hebrews 13:13

Therefore let us go forth Let's Press On to Him...

## Paul saw his Christianity as a Race

Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,  
14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.