

Galatians

Chapter 4:1-11

- I. **Galatians 4:1-3**¹Now I say, *That* the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; ²But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. ³Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

a. Pronouns

- I. **A key to understanding this passage is understanding the different groups being discussed. Paul was a Jew. The body of Christ in the Galatia area were mainly Gentiles with some Jews (Galatians 3:28). You have to see the context with the pronouns to understand what is being said.**

b. Heir

- I. **The first part of this passage is describing an heir as a child.**
1. **Differeth nothing from a servant even though an Heir**
 2. **Under Tutors and Governors until father determines time.**
 - a. **The purpose of tutors and governors was to prepare a child for manhood. This was evident in Roman and Greek culture**
 - i. **Hosea 11:1**¹When Israel *was* a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.
 - ii. **Jeremiah 31:32**³²Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt;

which my covenant they brake,
although I was an husband unto them,
saith the LORD:

- c. “We” were children
 - I. **This goes back to my first statement. This “we” would be Israel under the Old Testament economy.**
- d. Bondage under the elements of the world
 - I. **This was the law.**
 - 1. **Acts 15:8**⁸And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as *he did* unto us;
 - 2. **Romans 3:19**¹⁹Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.
- II. **Galatians 4:4-5**⁴But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,⁵To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.
 - a. Fulness of the time was come
 - I. **Different then the dispensation of the fullness of times.**
 - 1. **Ephesians 1;10**¹⁰That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:
 - b. Made of a woman
 - I. **Prophesied**
 - 1. **Genesis 3:15**¹⁵And 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.
 - 2. **Matt 2:5-6**⁵And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for **thus it is written** by the prophet,⁶And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of

Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

3. **Matthew 2:15**¹⁵And was there until the death of Herod: that it **might be fulfilled** which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.
4. **Matthew 2:17-18**¹⁷Then **was fulfilled** that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, ¹⁸In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.
5. **Hebrews 2:14-18**¹⁴Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself **likewise took part of the same**; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶For verily he took not on *him the nature of* angels; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.
6. **Philippians 2:7-8**⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

c. Made under the law

I. **Luke 2:39**³⁹And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

II. **Luke 4:24:44**⁴²And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them. ⁴³And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent. ⁴⁴And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.

d. Redeem “them” that were under the law

I. **“Them” is Israel who were under the law.**

II. **Romans 3:23-25**²³For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; ²⁴Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ²⁵Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

III. **Romans 10:4**⁴For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

e. “We” might receive the adoption of sons

I. **Adoption**

1. **Israel and adoption**

a. **Romans 9:4**⁴Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service *of God*, and the promises;

2. **The Body of Christ and adoption**

a. **Ephesians 1:5**⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

b. Romans 8:14-17 ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And 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.

f. Sons

I. **The passage is teaching that the body of Christ has received adoption as sons and not children who require tutors and governors. We are not under the law. We are viewed as a son that the father has already deemed as ready. We have this by faith. Paul continues his thought regarding the body of Christ.**

III. **Galatians 4:6-7** ⁶And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. ⁷Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

a. “Ye”are sons

I. **Ephesians 1:3-6** ³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: ⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

- II. **Romans 8:11** ¹¹But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.
- III. **Romans 8:23** ²³And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

b. Crying Abba Father

- I. **Romans 5:2** ²By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- II. **Hebrews 4:16** ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
- III. **Ephesians 2:6** ⁶And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:
- IV. **Ephesians 2:18** ¹⁸For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
- V. **Romans 8:26-28** ²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. ²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.
- VI. **Phillippians 4:6-7** ⁶Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- VII. **Ephesians 3:20-21** ²⁰Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,

according to the power that worketh in us, ²¹Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

c. Son heir

I. **Ephesians 3:6** ⁶That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

IV. **Galatians 4:8-11** ⁸Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. ⁹But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? ¹⁰Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. ¹¹I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

a. Past of the gentiles

I. **Ephesians 2:11-13** ¹¹Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹²That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ¹³But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

II. **Ephesians 2:2** ²Wherein 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:

b. When you knew not God

I. **Romans 6:18** ¹⁸Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.,

II. **Romans 6:20** ²⁰For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

- III. **Ephesians 1:7** ⁷In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- IV. **I Corinthians 15:3** ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
- V. **Colossians 1:22-23** ²²In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: ²³If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;
- VI. **Romans 5:12** ¹²Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
- VII. **II Corinthians 5:21** ²¹For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
- VIII. **Romans 6:6** ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.
- IX. **Romans 6:11-14** ¹¹Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ¹³Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God. ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
- X. **Ephesians 2:4-6** ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ,

(by grace ye are saved;) ⁶And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

c. By nature are no gods

I. **Acts 17:23** ²³For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. **no gods**

II. **Acts 14:11-15** ¹¹And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. ¹²And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people. ¹⁴*Which* when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard *of*, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, ¹⁵And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

III. **I Corinthians 8:4-5** ⁴As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* none other God but one. ⁵For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

d. Weak and beggarly elements

I. **Colossians 2:8** ⁸Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

- II. **Colossians 2:16** ¹⁶Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*:
- III. **Colossians 2:18-23** ¹⁸Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. ²⁰Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, ²¹(Touch not; taste not; handle not; ²²Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? ²³Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.