

Galatians 4

July 1, 2010

Who

Speaking- Paul

Main characters- Galatians

Secondary characters- Judaizers

What

Subjects being covered- The Galatians choice of returning to child-like slavery when they have been given adult freedom.

Learn about the subject- God's favor and believer's freedom comes through faith in Christ, not works of the Law- which leads back to slavery!

Learn about the people- The Galatians, having been given freedom from slavery by God through Christ, have opted to return to living as if they were children who needed a guardian to tell them how to live. Rather than living out their identity as adopted children of God, with His full favor and their full freedom, and the inheritance of eternal life, that returning to anyone who dictates and controls one's life is crazy because one exchanges freedom for slavery. Favor with God comes only through faith in Christ, not through works of the Law. That favor carries with it the inheritance of eternal life.

When

Do or will these events occur- after one is justified.

Where

Was it said-

Two key locations are:

Jerusalem (home to Jewish-Christian church)

Antioch (home to Gentile-Christian church)

Why

At this time- Because the Galatians are currently exchanging freedom and favor for slavery and judgment.

This person- He oversees the church and her health

How

is it illustrated- through 2 analogies

A father who dies and lays up an inheritance for his children.

The heirship of Sarah and Hagar

Key Words and Phrases

(1) child(ren) (nApios)- One who cannot speak, one not yet of age

(5) son (huiotesia)- son through placement (adoption). adoption, receiving into the relationship of a child. Adoption, when thus legally performed, put a man in every respect in the position of a son by birth to him who had adopted him, so that he possessed the same rights and owed the same obligations.

(19) children (teknon)- to bring forth, bear children,

(24) children (ginnaO)- to beget

(1) slave(ry) (doulos)- one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will being altogether consumed in the will of the other.

son (huios)- adopted son

free (eleuthera)- capable of movement, the free one. Free, unconstrained, unfettered, independent.

One who is not dependent upon another.

Lists

Progression of the Galatians

8-

9-

14-

16-

17-

Paul's Questions

9, 15, 16, 21, 30

What happens when we are sons and daughters

Things that we are held in bondage by or slavery to.

the Law

weak and worthless elemental things of the world

Compare and Contrast

Contrast- According to the Flesh and According to the Promise/Spirit

Contrast- Slavery and Freedom

Contrast- Two descendants of Abraham

Contrast- Who we are before and in Christ.

Compare- Labor in vain and now again in labor until Christ is formed in them.

Contrast- didn't know God, now known by God

Expressions of Time

2- until

3- while

4- when

7- no longer

9- but now

10- days and months and seasons and years

11- lest i labored for you in vain

13- first time

18- always

19- again

20, 29- now

25- now

Terms of Conclusion

5, 17- so that

7- Therefore

31- so then

Chapter Themes

Redemption from slave to free

The Temptation to backslide into slavery

Bondage and Law, Redemption and Faith

Lessons for Life

The Christian should no long for their life before Christ because that is bondage.

Live as though one is free.

Christians needs to rejoice that Jesus has brough freedom from bondage.

Christians shouldn't doubt and poo-poo that Christians will "fall back" into bondage.

Christians need to be forward thinking and not looking backwards at the "good old days."

All Scripture points to Jesus.

Needs to remember that Satan is the enemy.

Insights

- The situation is focused on the Galatians. Although it's the Judaizers who are causing the issue at hand, Paul puts all honus on the Galatians with how they respond and live.
- The Galatians believers are doing exactly what the Jews did upon leaving Egypt, they desired to return to slavery over freedom, death over life, and "false gods" over Christ!