

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“Heir”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 4:1-7

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-8**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 9**. Today we continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #28. I have titled today’s message *“Heir”* (v1 and v7).
-) I was born on November 28, 1953, into a loving family with very loving parents. For many years I was under their care. They provided everything I needed. They fed me. They clothed me. And they put a good roof over my head. I wouldn’t trade that experience for all the money in the world. And during those years I was too young to make grown up decisions on my own.
-) **SLIDE 10**. 19 years, 4 months, and 2 days after my birth, things changed. On Friday, March 30, 1973, I packed up my 1972 Dodge Colt and headed south to a small town in Virginia called Waynesboro to begin a new job and a new life on my own. I was no longer under the care of my parents.
-) **SLIDE 11**. The apostle Paul makes a similar comparison in verses 1-3 of GALATIANS chapter 4. And I want to break these three verses down into three truths. And since Paul is speaking in human terms, I will be speaking in generalities.
-) **SLIDE 12**. A child will **INHERIT** what the father owns. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 13**. GALATIANS 4:1-3.
-) **SLIDE 14**. A child will **EVENTUALLY** move on from under the father’s care. In Jewish culture, that would have been determined by the father’s approval. The father would give the child his blessing to move on.

-) So, for the Jew or Gentile in Galatia (2000 years ago) is that the child, once released by the father, is no longer under the care of an adult parent, a guardian, manager, etc.
-) In today's culture, it means the child picks up and moves on, usually by their own choice, as I did on 3/30, 1973. And, for me, there was a sense of freedom that day. I was on my own.
-) **SLIDE 15.** GALATIANS 4:1-3.
-) **SLIDE 16.** As a child, we only **KNOW** what we were taught. Before I moved to Waynesboro, VA in 1973, I only understood living in a city that had professional sports, constant traffic, and a bar beside every Catholic Church. And I also only knew the religion of my parents. I was held in bondage, so to speak, with what my environment provided.
-) So, what Paul is saying from a human perspective in these first three verses is this. It's actually the process of life. We are born into a family who raises us and teaches us what they know. At some point in time, we move on and begin to learn new things on our own. But we will never cease to be children of our parents, and therefore we are heirs to that inheritance.
-) The people in these churches at Galatia, both the Jews and the Greeks, would have understood what Paul was saying. It was a way of life and part of their culture too.
-) He just presented 3 truths as temporal examples in verses 1-3. Examples the people would understand. Now he is about to equate these examples into Spiritual truths.
-) Before we get into the spiritual truths Paul wants to reveal here, let's remember the purpose of this letter. The people at these churches in Galatia are resorting back to the Mosaic Law as something that defines them and a way of life. Why? Because they have been threatened by false teachers (Judaizers) that circumcision is necessary to be saved. They must observe the Mosaic Law plus have faith in Jesus Christ.

-) Let's look at these three truths again, this time in reverse order, to reveal the Spiritual truths he is presenting.
-) **SLIDE 17.** As a Christian, we cannot remain **COMFORTABLE** with our old religion. The problem with the Galatians is they were told, by false teachers, to go back to observing the Mosaic Law which they were all too happy to do. Galatians, you cannot go back to that system. It is now a new covenant under grace through Jesus Christ.
-) **SLIDE 18.** GALATIANS 4:4-5. Paul has to remind the Galatians that obedience to the Law could never save anyone and that Jesus Christ has redeemed them (and us) from the penalty of the Law. Remember, the Law, in and of itself, can only kill. It can never save.
-) **SLIDE 19.** What does it mean to redeem? Webster. Do we realize that we have a sin debt that we cannot pay? We have been redeemed from that which binds us. The parable in MATTHEW 18:23-35. Explain.
-) People today want to do the same thing—accept Christianity but go back to their old religion. We will talk more about this when we move on to verses 8-11.
-) **SLIDE 20.** As a Christian, we now have a **SPIRITUAL** Father.
-) **SLIDE 21.** GALATIANS 4:6. Scripture makes it clear that the Christian has been adopted into the family of God. God the Father is now our Abba (Jewish for daddy or pappa).
-) Many people today have a hard time with this truth because they struggle with the memories of their own earthly father who may not have been the best influence or the best example setter. And they believe God the Father will say and do the same things as their earthly father did. There's a trust issue.
-) **SLIDE 22.** Paul is telling us different. This Spiritual Father has given us His Holy Spirit to dwell within our hearts.

-) **SLIDE 23.** As a Christian, we are now an **HEIR** as His son.
-) **SLIDE 24.** GALATIANS 4:7. We may inherit what our earthly fathers want to give us, but we WILL inherit what our Spiritual Father will be giving us. He always keeps His promises. Let's look at some other New Testament passages that talk about our inheritance.
-) **SLIDE 25.** EPH 3:4-6. Good news! Salvation isn't just for the Jews. Even the Gentiles (that would be us) are included in the promise and are heirs with Christ.
-) **SLIDE 26.** TITUS 4:4-7. Jesus promises eternal life to all who believe in and call upon His name. And this is not according to our righteousness, but according to His mercy.
-) **SLIDE 27.** ROM 8:16-17. We not only inherit the fact that we will be glorified with Christ, but we will also suffer persecutions along with Him. So, I ask. Do we intentionally do and say things to avoid persecution? Do we maybe fear being identified as being a Christian?
-) **SLIDE 28.** 1 PETER 1:3-5. Unlike an earthly father's will which could change according to our relationship with him or his choice, our Spiritual Father will never change our inheritance. It will never spoil, fade, or perish. And our inheritance is kept in heaven secured by the power of the Father. Who can separate us?
-) We have been adopted into a new family and we have a new Father—a Spiritual Father, and we are now on a new journey. We forget the old and welcome the new. The Law is behind us, and grace is now part of us. And because of the work of Christ, we have perfect assurances of our inheritance. With joy we now cry out "*ABBA FATHER!*"

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