

## **Galatians 4:1-20**

### **Bottom Line: Don't let legalism steal the joy of your salvation**

Paul is writing this letter to his people but he is fighting against legalism so he has real conversation with them.

#### **Verses 1-3**

We were children in bondage

We were children enslaved to elementary principles. This is referring to something like our A.B.C.'s. For 15 centuries or so, Jews were in elementary school, because that's all they could learn before Jesus. As believers we are adopted into God's family. Forever we enter into his family as adult sons. Why is this significant? It is because only adult sons can enjoy the benefits of full sonship.

A lot of scholars don't like the phrase children of God that is often used. They prefer sons of God. In the Roman world babies and toddlers were cared for by slaves, so they didn't have any more rights than slaves. So being taken over by legalism is like being the son of a king but living like a slave. So they were being convinced by the Judiazers that legalism was a step toward spiritual maturity but it's actually regressing.

#### **Verses 4-5**

He reminds them of who they were and then of what God did: He redeemed them.

Fullness of time; everything was right and it will be again. Tells us when, who, how, and why. He tells the story of being purchased as a slave; you wouldn't go back to being a slave.

#### **Verses 6-7**

Then he reminds them of what we are: Sons and heirs. The whole trinity is in verse 6. He contrasts the difference between servants and sons. The Son has the same nature as the Father. (The law can only reveal the need for a father.) The son has a father, while the servant has a master. Abba Father = Daddy. The son obeys out of love; the servant obeys out of fear. The son is rich, while the servant is poor. (every spiritual blessing) The son has a future while the servant doesn't. The son has access (example-Barrin Trump)

He begins by reminding them of some things they may have forgotten and he's setting them up for the reprimand.

#### **Verses 8-11**

In this reprimand he says that the Galatians are going back to being enslaved by the elementary principles. The people are scrupulously observing Jewish Sabbaths, first days of the months, seasons such as Passover and Pentecost, years such as sabbatical years and years of jubilee. I

don't think it's necessarily bad to observe some of these things but the way in which they were doing it might be.

Explanation of Sanctification vs legalism.

Side Note: Explanation of Integrity

### **Verses 12-20**

He said some harsh words in verse 11. Let's make up.

So then he reconciles with them. This is like disciplining my kids and then talking about it.

As their spiritual father he rebuked them in love. They used to be so loving but legalism removes love.

We don't know about Paul's ailments. We do know they were loving to him though. We don't know much about them but they were joyous.