

## Galatians 4:5-20

(Galatians 4:5 NKJV) to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Jesus came for the lost sheep of Israel, to redeem them from bondage to the Law. He never intended to forsake the nations because they were in bondage as well.

His saving Grace allowed us to be adopted into God's family. Adoption in the Greek and Jewish cultures was similar in intent. The adopted son had all of the rights and privileges of any other child. If he was the oldest son, he had full rights to the inheritance even if there was a natural but younger son.

GUZIK: We **receive** the adoption of sons; we do not **recover** it. In this sense, we gain something in Jesus that is greater than what Adam ever possessed. Adam was never adopted as a son of God in the way believers are. So we are mistaken when we think of redemption as merely a restoration of what was lost with Adam. We are granted more in Jesus than Adam ever had.

(Galatians 4:6 NKJV) And because you are sons, God has sent forth the **Spirit of His Son into your hearts**, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

Some do not like the idea of calling the Creator of the Universe, "daddy". It sounds too familiar. But what a wonderful picture it is to have that kind of relationship with God!

Even the Man Jesus cried out:

Mark 14:36 NKJV And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

It is only by the Spirit of His Son, given to us when we first believed, that we can cry out "Abba Father!". It is this same Spirit that Paul teaches when he wrote:

Romans 8:13-17 NKJV For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (15) 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, (17) and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

AND

Romans 8:26 NKJV Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

LUTHER: The Spirit intercedes for us not in many words or long prayers, but with groanings, with little sounds like "Abba." Small as this word is, it says ever so much. It says: "My Father, I am in great trouble and you seem so far away. But I know I am your child, because you are my

Father for Christ's sake. I am loved by you because of the Beloved." This one little word "Abba" surpasses the eloquence of a Demosthenes and a Cicero.

(Galatians 4:7 NKJV) Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

A slave may not be a permanent position, especially if he/she worked off their debt. The master could, at any moment, release the slave for any reason.

BUT A SON!!!! And, a son of God, is never forsaken, never rejected or kicked out of the house! The prodigal son left on his own! When he returned, it was to open arms and a feast! That's the Father love!!!

Add to that we are an heir of God! We receive blessings! Not always earthly or material blessings but eternal blessings that will never rust or decay!

LUTHER: Whatever induced God to adopt us for His children and heirs? What claim can men who are subservient to sin, subject to the curse of the Law, and worthy of everlasting death, have on God and eternal life? That God adopted us is due to the merit of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who humbled Himself under the Law and redeemed us law-ridden sinners.

(Galatians 4:8 NKJV) But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.

Paul reminds them of their spiritual roots. They did not know God and they served idols made of clay, wood or metal.

Isaiah 44:9-10 NKJV Those who make an image, all of them *are* useless, And their precious things shall not profit; They *are* their own witnesses; They neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed. (10) Who would form a god or mold an image *That* profits him nothing?

Isaiah 44:17-18 NKJV And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships *it*, Prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you *are* my god!" (18) They do not know nor understand; For He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, *And* their hearts, so that they cannot understand.

(Galatians 4:9 NKJV) 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?

Do not say, "I came to God; I found Jesus" – but rather say, "God found me and I was known by Him – and He saved me anyway!"

But the Galatians were falling into a deep pit; they were snared by the lies of the devil who promised them much if they would only obey the Law. He appealed to their covetousness; he appealed to their worldly philosophies that on the surface seemed right but were just dressed up lies – like putting lipstick on a pig.

(Galatians 4:10 NKJV) You observe days and months and seasons and years.

They were legalistically observing feasts and holidays and sabbaths – all for the expressed purpose of pleasing God and getting on “His good side”. His good side is already occupied by Jesus and God can never be pleased with anything other than faith and the good works that faith brings!

(Galatians 4:11 NKJV) I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

**Labored** is literally “to labor to the point of exhaustion.” Paul worked hard among the Galatians, just like he always worked hard (1Co 15:10). Paul never thought that his gospel of free grace meant laziness in serving God.

**In vain:** At the end of this section, Paul puts a choice before the Galatians, **and before us**. We can have a living, free, relationship with God as a loving Father based on what Jesus did for us and who we are in Him. Or we can try to please God by our best efforts of keeping the rules, living in bondage as slaves, not sons. Living that way makes the whole gospel **in vain**.

The Book of Hebrews warned Christian Jews of the dangers of going back under the Law. In the book of Galatians, Paul warns the Christian Gentiles not to go under the Law!

What is it that appeals to people about the Law? They may even find it burdensome and joyless. But, they won't budge! Why do churches teach Christ crucified and the remission of ALL sin and at the same time heap on “do this, don't do that” with the implied “you know the consequences if you sin....”.

The issue of legalism and going under the Law is deeply affecting Paul's soul(?) is he thinking that his rebuke is too strong?

(Galatians 4:12 NKJV) Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I *became* like you. You have not injured me at all.

The tone goes from “you fools” to “Brethren”. The Greek word *adelphos* means “joined in the womb” – very strong connection is made!!!

Like you are now, I once was...been there done that

I became a gentile for you (1 cor 9:19-23); but don't become like a jew I used to be; be the Christian I am now in full liberty from the Law no longer in bondage

You are not hurting me....you are just hurting yourselves

Paul abandons theology for a heart-felt plea for them!

(Galatians 4:13 NKJV) You know that because of **physical** infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first.

II Corinthians 12:9, 10:

was always in peril at the hands of the Jews, Gentiles, and false

II Corinthians 7:6,

But because of physical infirmity he came to Galatia? To escape? To rest?

(Galatians 4:14 NKJV) And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.

“good Samaritan?” the “sheep” that did it unto Jesus when they thought it was just a person(s)

Did Paul come to them showing the marks of the beatings he had?

Stamm: “The difficulty of diagnosing the case of a living patient should warn us of the futility of attempting it for one who has been dead almost nineteen hundred years.”

(Galatians 4:15 NKJV) What then was the blessing you *enjoyed*? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

What then was the blessing you *enjoyed*? *Or, you were greatly blessed when you received the Gospel of Jesus Christ including the Gift of the Holy Spirit!!!! Where is that blessedness now that you want/have gone into bondage of the Law?*

Was this a veiled reference to the “thorn” being an issue with his eyes?

By receiving and maintaining Paul they called upon their own heads the hatred and malice of all the Jews and Gentiles. Nowadays the name of Luther carries the same stigma. Whoever praises Luther is a worse sinner than an idolater, perjurer, or thief.

Luther, Martin. Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians (p. 127). Kindle Edition.

But was this hyperbole describing their amazing acceptance and treatment of him when he came?

As physical infirmity and illness were regarded by Jews and Gentiles alike as a symbol of divine displeasure or punishment, there would have been a natural temptation for the Galatians to despise Paul and reject his message.”

(Galatians 4:16 NKJV) Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

Rhetorical? Either way, the meaning is: sometimes the truth hurts and so don't take it out on the messenger!!!

(Galatians 4:17 NKJV) They zealously court you, *but* for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.

The false teachers, the Judaizers, loved to convince the believers of the necessity of keeping the Law; they came with great fervor but the end was not for the Galatian's well-being but for their own; their zealousness was envy in disguise – envious of Paul; they wanted to get them away from Paul and his teachings and have them come to the Jesus+ movement so that the same love they had for Paul would be given to them.

(Galatians 4:18 NKJV) But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.

Be zealous for the truth – that’s good! But don’t abandon it when I am gone!

(Galatians 4:19 NKJV) My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

Paul’s love for them is as a mother or father raising their own flesh and blood; yes, he is experiencing labor pains again, like he felt when he was there before – Having Christ formed and shaped into His image was and still is his heart’s desire and goal.

(Galatians 4:20 NKJV) I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

His tone, at the first time he came to them was filled with the love of Christ towards them....now, perhaps, he’s thinking that a good dose of a “hell-fire and brimstone, keep the Law” tone would shake them up! For the Judaizers never taught the full truth of a Jesus+ life!!!

The word “doubts” better means, “man, you are totally perplexing to me!” or “what gives?”