

Galatians 3.26 – 4.7

Daughters and Sons of the Risen Son

Easter 1972 – 16 yr old Californian – Easter Camp on Catalina Island

YMCA – Never knew what Letters Meant – Shocked to Learn ‘C’ Christian

NOT Christian – Not from Christian Home – Never Heard Gospel of Christ

Friends hid in Hills during Bible Talks and Chapel Services

He Noticed PRETTY GIRLS walked past his Cabin with their BIBLES

BIBLE Study NEVER looked so GOOD!

40 Years Later – 40 Pounds Greater – Californian who follows Christ

PRAISE and THANKS to Merciful, Gracious, Faithful Lord and Savior

JOY and PRIVILEGE to PROCLAIM my SAVIOR & KING this Easter Morn

1. Announcement of Christ

Paul PREACHER of Good News > GLADLY HERALDS the GLAD TIDINGS!

Been Wearing GOWN of ADVOCATE > Lawyer for Lord to PROVE His CASE

NOW – on EASTER Sunday --- Hear Paul PROCLAIM Wondrous Love of God

a. Timeless One On Time – ETERNAL God stepped into HISTORY

4.4 when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son

PLAN of REDEMPTION First PROCLAIMED in CRIME SCENE of EDEN:

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Genesis 3.15

1000 yrs of BONDAGE under the LAW > Constant REMINDER of GUILT

FIRST WORDS in FIRST WRITTEN Gospel of Jesus:

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1.14,15

TIME of UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY for Son of God to COME

Old RELIGIONS were DYING / PHILOSOPHIES were EMPTY, POWERLESS
 Strange, New MYSTERY Religions were EMERGING and Gaining CURIOSITY
 ROMAN ROADS connected Cities / LAWS Protected Citizens and Free Travel
 SOLDIERS Guarded the PEACE / GREEK was SPOKEN Everywhere

When the time which had been ordained by the providence of God was seasonable
 and fit. John Calvin

b. Born but Never Began – ETERNAL God took on HUMAN FLESH

4.4. God sent forth his Son, born of woman

DUAL Nature of Jesus: God and Man - ETERNAL Son, became His Mother's Son
 EXISTENCE of Jesus Christ BEFORE being SENT into WORLD
 BORN in Bethlehem but did NOT BEGIN in Bethlehem > NEVER BEGAN!
 INCARNATION - GOD become FLESH – BORN of a WOMAN
 ETERNAL Son of God – NO BEGINNING and NO END

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for
 your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8.9

NEXT Great EVENT on God's CALENDAR is RETURN of Jesus Christ to Earth

c. Law-Keeping Liberator

4.5 born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law

SINLESS – NEVER BROKE LAW – Not need Prison, Pedagogue, Guardian

Language of SUBSTITUTION > Jesus did not NEED LAW

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him
 Hebrews 5.7-9

His RIGHTEOUSNESS makes us RIGHTEOUS / thru THE Son we become A Son

2. Adopted as Children

4.5 to redeem...so that we might receive adoption as sons

Galatians is STERN Letter – AGITATED Apostle UPSET with False Teachers
 WARNING about DANGERS of God's JUDGMENT – Divine ANATHEMA!
 Do NOT let that DISTORT your VIEW of God > LOVING, Heavenly Father
 God is NOT an OLD MAN in a BAD MOOD > Unpredictable Fits of Rage!

Q. 4. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Westminster Shorter Catechism

Jews that THEY ONLY were CHILDREN of God: PART of God's Promise to Abe
 God promised Abe: MAKE HIM into a GREAT NATION – HOMELAND
 FORGET 3rd Part Abrahamic PROMISE: BLESSING to ALL PEOPLES thru You
 GENTILES Treated like 2nd Rate Members of Family > Not Siblings but Servants
 JUSTIFICATION by Faith > ASSURANCE of our SONSHIP before Father God
 a. Children under Care-taker

Galatians: ONE Way of Salvation – ONE Faith in ONE GOD thru WHOLE Bible
 DEVELOPMENT as MOVE from OT to pages of NT > NEW COVENANT
 Ch. 3 MOVEMENT in RELATIONSHIP of God's People to the Law of Moses

1) PRISON – LOCK Up GUILTY Sinners until they’re SET FREE in JESUS

2) PEDAGOGUE – DISCIPLINE Youngster until they’re MATURE

3) Guardians and Managers >>>>

4.1,2 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father.

BEFORE a MINOR comes of Age > Has NO LEGAL RIGHTS of INHERITANCE

Sometimes in HISTORY > Young Child becomes the MONARCH

Hold TITLE but REAL POWER in Hands of Guardians & Managers over Them

ROMAN World > Infant Child of WEALTHY Cared for by SLAVES

NO Matter how WEALTHY your FATHER > Infant does not Enjoy the Wealth

No Matter WHO your FATHER – Child is Child – Cared for by SERVANTS

NOT Good Idea to GIVE CAR KEYS to YOUNG Child

Our 3 Sons PROVEN, When they’re OLDER: They’ll SOMEHOW Get the KEYS!

4.3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.

If they wanted to be spiritual grown-ups, they would have to advance beyond the law.
Philip Ryken

JEWS – 1000 yrs Since MOSES – Under GUARDIAN of LAW

LEGALISM is step BACKWARDS into Childhood

Man Sits in Great LIBRARY – Surrounded by Great Literature – Recites ABC’s

LAW belongs to the KINDEGARTEN Stage of our LIFE – Temporary, Preparatory
Kindegarten GREAT if you’re 4,5,6 > 40,50,60 Kindegarten Need PADDED CELL

With the coming of Jesus Christ, the nation of Israel moved out of childhood into adulthood.
Warren Wiersbe

A Child	A Son
by Regeneration	by Adoption
Entering the Family	Enjoying the Family
Under Guardians	Free as an Adult
Cannot Inherit	Heir of the Father

ONCE we were SLAVES – NOW we are SONS – How could we be Slaves Again?
WONDROUS News for the 60 MILLION Slaves in ROMAN EMPIRE

b. Sons in the Spirit

To say SONS of God is NO MORE to EXCLUDE WOMEN

Than to Say Church is BRIDE of Christ is meant to EXCLUDE MEN

21st C – Some call PAUL / Christians > Chauvinists, Women-Haters

1st C – Paul HATED for Giving TOO MUCH RESPECT & Privilege to Women

Society THEN – Not UNUSUAL / Not often PUNISHABLE to KILL Wife

PAUL advocates KINDNESS, LOVING w/ SACRIFICIAL, DYING Love of Jesus

1) In the Son

FATHER has ONE BELOVED SON > Become Children of GOD IN HIM

3.26 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

3.27 into Christ...put on Christ.

3.28 in Christ Jesus.

3.29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring

God is NOT PRISON WARDEN or PEDAGOGUE or even GUARDIAN

IN Jesus Christ we have COME OF AGE to be SONS AND HEIRS of God

ABBA – ARAMAIC Word of INTIMACY / RESPECT for FATHER

NO OT Person called God Father – Not Abe, Moses, David, Ruth, Sarah, Isaiah

JESUS ALWAYS called God FATHER > and TAUGHT His Followers to do so

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. 1 John 3.1

Adoption > Shows we are MEMBERS of the FAMILY

The highest position one can achieve simply by working in a household is a servant. A servant may live with a family. A servant may do the family's laundry, cook the family's meals, clean the family's house, and feed the family dog. But the servant could do all those things for decades without ever becoming a member of the family...when it comes to God's family, the Father is willing to adopt anyone who believes in his Son, Jesus Christ. Philip Ryken

ONLY Way INTO the Family > PERSONALLY Trusting in Jesus Christ

God: CREATOR of Everyone / KING over Everyone / But NOT Everyone's Father

God is FATHER ONLY of His Son Jesus Christ & ALL those in Christ by FAITH

There is no slavery in Christ, only Sonship.

Martin Luther

2) In the Spirit

4.6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Ch 3 > BEGAN their Christian Life by POWER of HOLY SPIRIT

WORK of TRIUNE God – ONE GOD – Father, Son, Spirit

WORKING TOGETHER to make us God's Daughters and Sons

God the Father SENT God the Son to DIE for US

God the Father and God the Son SENT God the Spirit to LIVE in US

One Time Gospels record Jesus calling God ABBA FATHER:

“My soul is very sorrowful, even to death...” ... he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”
Mark 14.34-36

DARKEST Possible Moment Jesus used this Language of INTIMATE Communion

REMINDER that JESUS has been in EVEN DEEPER Darkness FOR US

NOTHING can SEPARATE a SON or DAUGHTER of GOD from their FATHER

INDWELLING Presence of Holy Spirit – Confirming we are Children of God

CALLING us to CALL upon HIS NAME in Confidence and Grateful JOY

‘Abba’ is the voice of the Spirit of Jesus on the lips of his people. F.F. Bruce

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8.15-17

3) In the Sacrament

ENTER God’s Family by REGENERATION > BORN AGAIN

ENJOY God’s Family by ADOPTION

Expressed by Baptism > FAITH in Jesus BAPTIZES us INTO Christ

3.27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

PRIMARILY Paul is MAKING a THEOLOGICAL Point

Coming to Jesus by Faith/ Receiving Spirit / Being Baptized > All Belong Together

BAPTISM > Word of UNION and PARTICIPATION > JOINED to Jesus

our fathers... were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea 1 Corinthians 10.2

POINT: Their IDENTIFICATION w/ Moses, his HEADSHIP over People of Israel

BAPTISM > Our UNION with Jesus Christ our HEAD by FAITH in Him

Does this REFER to PHYSICAL / WATER Baptism? Is it ONLY Spiritual Ref?

NOT at ALL! Believers in Galatia WERE Baptized, Outward Sign of Inward Union

CIRCUMCISION – EXCLUDES Women / BAPTISM – ALL are INCLUDED

FAITH mentioned 5 X's here / BAPTISM 1 X

INWARD Reality of SPIRITUAL Cleansing by Faith > Expressed in Baptism

NO SAVING POWER in the Baptism > or CIRCUMCISION > Any WORKS

Water BAPTISM is NOT New Circumcision > NOT that MUST have for Salvation

NOT that Water BAPTISM MAKES you a BELIEVER > DONE by BELIEVERS

Public TESTIMONY that you HAVE BELIEVED > ARE United to Christ by Faith

When ROMAN Child came of Age > Put on TOGA of ADULT CITIZEN

PUT ON Christ > A CHANGE of Garments, Laying Aside the Dirty Rags of Sin

PUT ON Christ > White, Clean BAPTISMAL Dress worn by those BAPTIZED

We do NOT MAKE Ourselves the CHILDREN of God by any RITUAL

Only by STRETCHING Out our EMPTY Hands in FAITH to Jesus Christ

Faith secures the union; baptism signifies it outwardly and visibly. John Stott

4) In this Span

3.29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

HAVING BEGUN with Abraham Paul now RETURNS to Abe as our FATHER

Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. Galatians 3.6,7

Life for CHRISTIAN is NOT Meaningless, Purposeless, Directionless, Aimless

IN CHRIST we join the LINE of Abraham – Take our Place in Hebrews 11

FATHER of our Faith – Abraham – Walked with God by FAITH 4000 yrs AGO

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called... ..he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God... they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. Hebrews 11.8,10,16

SALVATION NOT ESCAPE from World: TRUE Engagement w/ Maker of World

In JESUS we LIVE in the SHALOM of God – Peace with God, Others, Ourselves

In Christ we have FOUND our PLACE in HISTORY, SOCIETY, & ETERNITY

ONE Sense ADOPTION is NOT YET FINAL

Roman Practice: Man Adopted someone OUTSIDE his Family to be SON

1st PRIVATE Ceremony > SON was PURCHASED

2nd PUBLIC Ceremony > SONSHIP DECLARED before Gov't OFFICIALS

Christians had 1st Ceremony > Purchased by Christ, Empowered by Spirit

We AWAIT 2nd Event: When JESUS Returns and RECKONING Day Dawns

Son has same nature as the Father	Servant does not
Son has a Father	Servant has a Master
Son obeys out of Love	Servant obeys out of Fear
Son is Rich	Servant is Poor
Son has a Future	Servant has None

3. Abyss Closed

a. Separated by Differences

LAW created DIFFERENCES and DISTINCTIONS btwn People and Nations

Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast not made me a foreigner. Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast not made me a slave. Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who hast not made me a woman.
First Century Jewish Benediction

FEW Gentiles CONVERTED to become JEWS – BUT Not Widely ACCEPTED

The cleavage between Jew and Gentile was for Judaism the most radical within the human race. It was indeed possible for a Gentile to become a Jewish proselyte... But a Gentile who became a proselyte crossed over the Jewish side of the gulf; THE GULF REMAINED!
F.F. Bruce

JEWISH Christian LOOK at their GENTILE Christian Brothers > INCOMPLETE!

Will get the REAL RELIGION when they KEEP the MOSAIC Law Properly

3.28 RACE: Jew / Greek, MONEY: slave / free, SEX: male / female

GALATIA – SLAVES considered MERE PROPERTY

WOMEN – CONFINED and DISRESPECTED

GENTILES – Constantly SNEERED at by Jews

Last 2 years of UNI > Small Christian College in Tennessee – 500 Students

Fellow Californian > SUNDAYS out of College Community > LOCAL Church

1st Sunday > Drove to ALABAMA – Country Church, Deep in WOODS

WHITE – Heavy Breathing – Snake Handling > “After we get to KNOW YA”!

How LONG would that TAKE?? 4 – 5 Years! – ONLY 2 Year Course

Race, money, and sex are the primal powers in human life... Yet each of these spheres of human creativity has become degraded and soiled through the perversity of sin. Nationality and ethnicity have been corrupted by pride, material blessings by greed, and sexuality by lust. Timothy George

MUCH of WORLD HISTORY is Story of Conflicts over Race, Money, Sex

SECULAR SCHOLARS have RIGHTLY EXPOSED EVILS

Racism – Greed – Chauvinism – Class Struggle – Phobias – Oppression

WORLD has INSIGHTFUL ANALYSIS of Problems: Of Race, Money, Sex

ONLY GOSPEL of Jesus Christ has the ANSWER

b. Strengthened by Diversity

v. 28 You are all one person in Christ. New English Bible

FULL STANDING in Jesus Christ is NOT by What we DO

Denomination / Theology / Spiritual Gift / Church Membership / Ministry Vocation

Our RACE, POLITICS, SEX is of NO VALUE or NO HANDICAP before God

There are no promises made in the New Covenant made exclusively to ethnic Jews.

Derek Thomas

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12.12,13

We BELONG to GOD as SONS and DAUGHTERS

We BELONG to EACHOTHER as BROTHERS and SISTERS

Friday: Africans organizing Service of Remembrance at Rwandan Embassy

Islanders starting a Pacific Fellowship Easter Camp

Guy from Australia or England / Marrying British Girl from Hong Kong

ZGC Administrator from Philly – Baptism: Spain, Rwanda, USA

Malaysian BICF Admin: Needed my Sig on Doc, Carried to ZGC by Indonesian

ZGC Admin Ass't from China waiting for me to Send her Sermon Outline

COMMON? Certainty Jesus Christ DIED and ROSE from Death for US ALL!

In Christ snobbery is prohibited and class distinctions are rendered void. John Stott

NEXT Sunday – Drove into Chattanooga > Thru Housing Project > Heard Choir

Summer Day – Wonderful Gospel Music Blasting from Alton Park Bible Church

Drawn in by WONDERFUL Praise to God > Looked Around only 2 White Guys

Door > Pastor (Became Board member of College) > “Youth Group?”

We BEGAN 3 Days Later > Every WEDNESDAY Night for 2 Years

Next Sunday > How about TEACHING the Adult Sunday School class??

Went in for MUSIC – found MINISTRIES – best of all MEMBERS of a FAMILY!

3.28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Distinctions and DIFFERENCES are NOT OBLITERATED

RACE, CULTURE, TRIBE, LANGUAGE, SEX, ORIGIN do NOT Change

NOT saying they do NOT EXIST > We are Saying THEY DO NOT MATTER

In Fact they are WITNESS of the WONDER of God's Grace to ALL PEOPLE

Harry Ironside (Canadian 1876-1951) was once challenged by an Atheist to a debate. He agreed on one condition:

"First, you must promise to bring with you a man who was for years what we commonly call a 'down and outer'...a man who for years was under the power of evil habits from which he could not deliver himself, but on some occasion entered your meetings and heard this glorification of agnosticism and your denunciations of the Bible and Christianity, and whose heart and mind as he listened to such addresses was so deeply stirred that he went away from the meeting saying, 'From today, I too am an atheist!' and as a result of imbibing that particular philosophy found that a new power had come into his life. The sins he once loved he now hates, and righteousness and goodness are now the ideals of his life. He is now an entirely new man, a credit to himself and an asset to society - all because he is an agnostic.

Secondly, I would like you to bring with you a woman...once a poor, wrecked, characterless outcast, the slave of evil passions, and the victim of man's corrupt living but who also entered a hall where you were loudly proclaiming your agnosticism and as you spoke, hope was born in her heart and she said, 'this is just what I need to deliver me from the slavery of sin!' She followed the teaching and became an intelligent agnostic or infidel. As a result her whole life revolted against the degradation of the life she was living. She fled from the den of iniquity where she was held captive for so long; and today, rehabilitated, she has won her way back to an honored position in society and is living a clean, virtuous, happy life, all because she is an agnostic"

"If you find those two people and I will find 100 people who have been so changed by Christ." The two people were never found, the debate was never held.

Galatians 3

26 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

4:1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

PLAY “The Long Silence” – At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God’s throne. Most shrank back from the brilliant light before them. But some groups near the front talked heatedly – not with cringing shame, but with belligerence. ‘Can God judge us? How can he know about suffering?’ snapped a pert young brunette. She ripped open a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. ‘We endured terror...beatings... torture...death!’ In another group a Negro man lowered his collar. ‘What about this?’ he demanded, showing an ugly rope burn. ‘Lynched...for no crime but being black!’ In another crowd, a pregnant schoolgirl with sullen eyes. ‘Why should I suffer’ she murmured, ‘It wasn’t my fault.’ Far out across the plain there were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil suffering he permitted in his world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light, where there was no weeping or fear, or hunger or hatred. What did God know of all that man had been forced to endure in this world? For God leads a pretty sheltered life, they said. So each of these groups sent forth their leader, chosen because he had suffered the most. A Jew, a Negro, a person from Hiroshima, a horribly deformed arthritic, a child born with deformity. In the center of the plain they consulted each other. At last they were ready to present their case. It was rather clever. Before God could be qualified to judge, he must endure what

they had endured. Their decision was that God should be sentenced to live on earth – as a man! ‘Let him be born a Jew. Let the legitimacy of his birth be doubted. Give him work so difficult that even his family will think him out of his mind when he tries to do it. Let him be betrayed by his closest friends. Let him face false charges, be tried by a prejudiced jury and convicted by a cowardly judge. Let him be tortured. ‘At the last, let him see what it means to be terribly alone. Then let him die. Let him die to that there can be no doubt that he died. Let there be a great host of witnesses to verify it.’ As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the throng of people assembled. And when the last had finished pronouncing the sentence, there was a long silence. No one uttered another word. No one moved. For suddenly all knew that God had already served his sentence.”