

GALATIANS 3:23-29; 4:1-7

November 3, 2019

**TODAY'S TEXT**—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

**Text: GALATIANS 3:23-29; 4:1-7**

*Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. <sup>26</sup> So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

*4 What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup> The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup> So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.*

## FIRST THOUGHTS

Paul continues to use the picture of adoption in describing our relationship to God. Do you have any personal experience with adoption—perhaps in your family or the family of a friend? How has adoption impacted the life of someone you know?

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

### AN OLD GUARDIAN

> Read Galatians 3:23-25

- Paul used two metaphors in these verses to describe the Law: a prison guard and a guardian. What are the similarities and differences in these metaphors? What is the Law designed to protect us from?
- What do we learn from the Law as a tutor? How can we tell when we are ready to "graduate"?
- What does it say about the Law that God chose it to be our guardian and instructor until He sent Jesus to be our Savior?
- What use is the Law after we have recognized our need for Christ and have been saved?

### A NEW COMMUNITY

> Read Galatians 3:26-28

- What role does baptism play in our relationship with God? What picture does it create? What does it mean to "clothe ourselves with Christ"?
- What do you think the early church found most radical about verse 28? What do you think today's church has the most difficulty embracing about this verse?
- God's creation shows that He values diversity—why is that important to God? God's sending Jesus to gather us into one family shows that He values unity—why is that important to God? How does God use diversity and unity to accomplish His plans?

## A NEW POSITION

> Read Galatians 3:29; 4:1-7

- Consider the differences between a slave and an heir. How might their day-to-day life differ? Do you feel more like a slave or an heir in your day-to-day? Explain.
- What are the implications of God being our "Abba" ("Daddy")? This is the same term Jesus used for God. How does it affect you to know you can have that kind of relationship with the God of the universe?

## SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

**What excites you most about being a cherished child of God?**

**Personal Challenge:** Consider how you may be living like a slave not an heir. Write down some ways that your attitudes and actions can demonstrate to others around you the freedom and security found in Christ.

**Pray:** Close in prayer, asking that God would help the group model the unity of all believers in God's family.

## PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- Read Galatians 4:8-20
- What are some things God has set you free from? Are you ever tempted to return to those things?

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

**3rd** – Job 25; Mark 13-14 | **4th** – Job 26-27; Mark 15-16 | **5th** – Job 28-29; Galatians 1-2 | **6th** – Job 30; Psalm 120; Galatians 3-4 | **7th** – Job 31-32; Galatians 5-6 | **8th** – Job 33; 1 Corinthians 1-3 | **9th** – Job 34; 1 Corinthians 4-6

### Our Mission:

TO KNOW GOD AND BE  
CHANGED BY HIM IN A  
WAY THAT WILL CHANGE  
THE WORLD.

### Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH FOR  
THE UNCHURCHED,  
HERE AND AROUND  
THE WORLD.

### Adult LifeGroups:

INVITE AND INVEST IN  
THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST.  
CREATE COMMUNITY.  
MAKE DISCIPLES.