

# The Book of Galatians - Salvation for All - Part 3

November 29, 2015

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## **Galatians 4-5 NIV**

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. 2 The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. **3 So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces[a] of the world. 4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.[b]** 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba,[c] Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, **God has made you also an heir.**

### **Paul's Concern for the Galatians**

8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces[d]?

**Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?** 10 You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! 11 **I fear for you**, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

12 I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You did me no wrong. 13 As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, 14 and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. 15 Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. 16 Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

17 Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may have zeal for them. 18 **It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good**, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. 19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, 20 how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

### **Hagar and Sarah**

21 Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. 23 His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

24 These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written:

"Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."[e]

28 Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. 30 But what does Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son."[f]

**31 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.**

### **Freedom in Christ**

5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. 3 Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. **4 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.**

7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." 10 I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. 11 Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. 12 As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

### **Life by the Spirit**

13 **You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh[g]; rather, serve one another humbly in love.** 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: **“Love your neighbor as yourself.”**[h] 15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. 16 **So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.** 17 **For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever[i] you want.** 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 **The acts of the flesh are obvious:** sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 **Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.** 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

**Footnotes:**

Galatians 4:3 Or under the basic principles

Galatians 4:5 The Greek word for adoption to sonship is a legal term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture.

Galatians 4:6 Aramaic for Father

Galatians 4:9 Or principles

Galatians 4:27 Isaiah 54:1

Galatians 4:30 Gen. 21:10

Galatians 5:13 In contexts like this, the Greek word for flesh (sarx) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit; also in verses 16, 17, 19 and 24; and in 6:8. Galatians 5:14 Lev. 19:18 Galatians 5:17 Or you do not do what

**The Spirit of Sonship 4:1-7**

- Redeemed and Adopted
- From slavery to heirs to princes in the Kingdom
  - Free from bondage to the elemental principles/forces in this world – no longer the walking dead! - 4:3

**Avoiding “Hyper spirituality” and “False Righteousness Religion” 4:8-5:12**

- Avoiding religious mindset
  - It emphasizes that Christ's work wasn't enough... in order to become a truly good Christian we must fast, not eat bacon, reduce the amount of sex in a marriage, celebrate Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving as part of our “christian” requirements. It creates a FALSE dichotomy between the “secular & the sacred”
- Avoiding spiritual bondage
  - don't be enslaved by the forces that are behind pagan/christian hyper spirituality – 4:9
  - It's fine to be zealous – AS LONG AS THE PURPOSE IS GOOD – 4:18
  - The only thing that counts is FAITH expressing itself through LOVE – 5:6

**True Freedom in Christ... 5:13-26**

- Dealing with Gnosticism and “Christian Gnosticism”
  - Mind-Body-Soul-Spirit.... Oneness.... Material-Immaterial – we are made whole or one in Christ!
- Sarx – translated as “flesh” and as “sin nature”... Neither term does the word justice. It is our basic physical makeup that is prone to sin and gets addicted to it. Jesus was born in the flesh (sarx -1 John 4:2) but did not sin or get addicted to it. Because he didn't have a human father his flesh was not corrupted (1 Corinthians 15 & Romans 5).
- Feeding the Flesh or Feeding the Spirit?
  - Keep yourself wonderfully distracted by following/walking/keeping in step with the Spirit, drinking the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13), being Holy Spirit Centered
  - Don't quench Him, Fire him up!

**Announcements: [www.hopecommunitysite.com](http://www.hopecommunitysite.com) 705-812-2833**

**Morning Prayer** Monday to Friday 9 to 10 am at the church

**Woman's Walking/Exercise Group** – Tuesday's 7:00 pm at the church

**Mom's Hangout** – Wednesdays 10-11:30 am... A time for Moms and kid's to hang out and get to know each other.

**Upward Basketball:** Grades SK to 6 Wednesday nights & Saturday mornings contact Barry Elliott at 705-955-4893.

**God Squad Jr. High:** Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Students grades 6-8 are invited to this great program.

**Sr. High Youth:** Thursdays: 7:30 to 8:45 pm. Students grades 9-12

**Good Food Box** – Orders on the first Monday of each month from 3-6 pm and pick up on the third Wednesday of each month from 3-6 pm. Fresh Fruit and Vegetables... Small box \$10, Large box \$15

**Communion Lunch Service – First Sunday of each month** Service (10:00 am) of each month as part of the morning service. Invite a friend and bring food to share in this pot luck style meal.

**Christmas Eve Service** – Thursday, December 24th 5:00 pm... A one hour beautiful candle light service reflecting on the greatness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Hot apple cider will be served. A great night to invite friends and family so that they can experience the truth of Christ in the Christmas season