

Exegetical Notes – Galatians 4:4-8
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Galatians 4:4-8

(In the opening verses of this chapter, Paul discusses the status of a child in regards to his father's estate. Even though the child may be heir to everything, until the day appointed by his father, he has control over nothing. Though he is heir, he is under guardianship; he has no more control than a slave. Paul contends that when we were children, that is before we knew Christ as our Savior, we, too, were like that child, in slavery to the basic principles of the world.)

Verses 4-8

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.⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, 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.

⁸ Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.

- Paul says that when the time set by our Father had fully come, Jesus was born. He was born in the same way as are we. But his purpose was to set us free from our slavery to the principles of the world and to the religious law of the Jews so that we could become sons and daughters of God.
- Because God has adopted us as his children, He sends the Holy Spirit to assure us that we are children of God. The Spirit lets us know that we are in an intimate relationship with the Father; so intimate that we may call Him Abba. That word is a Greek diminutive. It is equivalent to the English word "Daddy."
- As God's children, we are no longer slaves to the principles of the world or to the Law of Moses. We are no longer under guardianship. We are heirs to all the promises of blessing that God has given to his children. Formerly, we

were slaves to the things of this world, but in Jesus, we have been set free to follow God.

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