

Exegetical Notes – Galatians 3:26-4:7

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Galatians 3:26-4:7

Verses 26-29

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- Paul stated his view of things very clearly in verse 26. Our works do not make us children of God. We become His children by trusting Jesus to save us. Works do not save us. Salvation comes by God's grace. It is received through faith.
- In baptism, we profess our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. We literally put on Christ, declaring that we trust Him alone for salvation.
- All distinctions related to nationality, wealth, sex are removed. God's grace offered through Jesus Christ is made to anyone and everyone who believes in Jesus.
- If you are trusting Jesus to save you, you are Abraham's seed. This time, the word is plural. All who come to God, as did Abraham through faith, are heirs to the promises of God.

Verses 4:1-5

^{4:1} 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 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.

- When the heir to the estate is underage, guardians and trustees are set in place to guide and protect him until he comes of age. The Law was the guide before Jesus came. Moses, the prophets, and the rabbis were the guardians and trustees set over us.
- Before the coming of Jesus, we were all lost in our sins, in slavery to the “elemental spiritual forces OF THE WORLD.”
- But when the time was right according to the plan of the Father, Jesus, God’s Son, was sent into the world according to the regulations of the Law. The purpose behind His coming was to redeem us, to save us. The Father adopted us into His family, making us His full heirs.
- Remember that Paul is discussing the concept of Roman adoption. When a Roman father chose to adopt a son, that adopted son became a full member of the adopting father’s family without any restrictions or reservations.

Verses 6-7

¹⁶ 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.

- To affirm our adoption into the family of God, by God’s invitation through faith in Jesus Christ, God sent His own spirit into our hearts to abide with us.
- The Holy Spirit calls out from within us to remind us that God has invited us into an intimate relationship with Him. The word “Abba” is the term a young child would use to address his father. It is equivalent to the English term “daddy” or “papa.” It is not formal like “Father.” It is intimate and close.
- God has made us His children and heirs to eternal life.

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