

## *to the churches of Galatia*

#7, Abba! Father! Gal 4:1-20

In our last lesson, Paul used a practical every day example, about a contract or will, to teach a deep Spiritual truth. Now once again he uses this method to teach another Spiritual truth. This truth is about how the Galatians, as well as everyone else, were once under the old covenant but are now, as Christians, under the new covenant.

1 Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father.

3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

[1.] v:1-2, as long as the heir is a child, **Write down the descriptions of life for this heir.**

[2.] v:3, So also we, **Who is this phrase talking about?**

[3.] v:3 **again**, held in bondage under the elemental things, **What do you think this phrase is referring to?**

[4.] v:4-5, redeem those who were under the Law, **From the list below, choose the best description of who this is.**

a) Gentiles only.

b) Jews only.

c) Jews and Gentiles.

d) None of the above.

[5.] v:5, receive the adoption as sons. **From the list below, choose the best description of who this is referring to.**

a) Gentiles only, Jews were already sons.

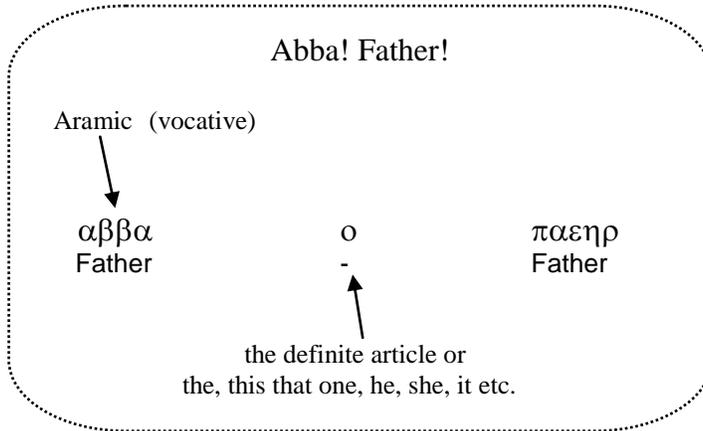
b) Baptists only.

c) All who have faith in Christ.

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6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. 8 However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.



9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years.

11 I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

[6.] v:6, God has sent forth, **We read from** I Cor 12:3, Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. **Why or why isn't it possible for one, without the Spirit, to cry Abba! Father?**

[7.] v:7-8, you are no longer a slave, **Back in v:3** we read how every Christian was once a slave. **What were they held in bondage to?**

[8.] v:9-10, the weak and worthless elemental things, **Write down some of these things we did as slaves.**

[9.] v:11, I fear for you, **What did Paul fear?**

[10.] Something to think about. Suppose someone suggests that your church does a Passover at the next "pot luck". Is this OK? Read I Cor 5:6-8 before you answer.

[11.] Something more to think about. What about a "Seder supper" Is this OK?

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12 I beg of you, brethren, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong; 13 but you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time; 14 and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself. 15 Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me. 16 So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?

17 They eagerly seek (have warmth of feeling for) you not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek (have warmth of feeling for) them.

**eagerly seek, have warmth of feeling for**

**Strong's Numbers and Concordance**

18 But it is good always to be eagerly sought (have warmth of feeling for) in a commendable manner, and not only when I am present with you.

19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you -

[12.] 12-16, So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth? Paul recounted how he was first received by the Galatians. Now they seem to be hostile to him. What happened to change their minds?

[13.] v:17, so that you will seek them. Why does or why doesn't this smack of hypocrisy?

[14.] v:17 again, From the following choose when the teachers of the law started courting the Galatians?

- a) As soon as Israel entered the promised land.
- b) When Israel returned from captivity.
- c) When they found out the Galatians were being saved.

[15.] v:18, it is good always to be eagerly sought, Yes, but on the other hand, why is it always important to know the true motives of those who are wanting Christians to be on their side?

[16.] v:19, My children, True or False, Paul is referring to saved people.

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20 but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

**perplexed**, have no way out, i.e. be at a loss (mentally):

Strong's Numbers and Concordance

[17.] v:19 again, with whom I am again in labor, How can we tell that Paul had not given up on those Christians?

[18.] v:19 last time, Christ is formed in you, From Rom 8:29, what is the meaning of this phrase?

[19.] v:20, I could wish to be present with you now, From the list below, choose Paul's best options.

- a) Hop a plane and go see them.
- b) There going to heaven anyway, so leave them to the teachers of the law.
- c) Pray diligently for them.
- d) Keep sending them encouragement in the form of letters and other Christians.
- e) None of the above, there's no hope for them!

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**NOTES**