

Galatians: Christ Has Set Us Free  
Lesson 7 “Heirs Through Christ”

I. Introduction - We’re continuing through our study on the book of *Galatians* tonight. The title of my message tonight is “Heirs Through Christ.” We are called to inherit the world. Many Christians want to go up instead of learning to grow up and possess their inheritance. While we will go to heaven one day, our eternal destiny is the earth and new earth and the Lord wants us to grow and possess the world. **Romans 8:17** and **Romans 4:13**.

A. Review

1. Paul wrote this book to give an revelation of grace and what the true gospel is. He wrote in a very emphatic and dogmatic and sort of in your face style. Why?
2. He was writing to churches in Galatia that he founded on his first missionary journey (*Acts 13-14*). These churches were founded in approximately 48 A.D.
3. Paul wrote Galatians about 3 years after he founded these churches to counter the teaching of the Judaizers. The Judaizers had come in and begin to say that these Christians had to continue to believe in Jesus but also live by the Mosaic law to be right with God. **Watered down the gospel**. Paul called their teaching of mixture a different gospel and said that those that taught it were accursed..
4. The main point of the letter is we are saved by putting faith in God’s grace. We cannot add to what Jesus did for us to get saved, maintain our salvation, and/ or to receive any of the blessings of God like healing, prosperity, etc.

B. Two weeks ago we finished *Galatians 3* and how we are redeemed from the curse of the law because of what Jesus did on the cross.

1. This promise is changeless because it’s dependent on Jesus not our works.
2. We closed out seeing that because of this we are heirs through Christ.

II. Heirs Through Christ

A. **Galatians 4:1-7**

1. **Verse 1** - Children and slaves are similar because they aren’t put in charge of things. Adults don’t give children the family checkbook the same way an owner doesn’t give a slave charge over the finances. Both are told what to do.
2. **Verse 2** - Children are under a tutor until appointed time (when they mature). Example of comparison about how we put baby Christians under a tutor.
3. **Verse 3** - The elements of the world Paul is talking about go back to the law.
  - a. The Gentiles were slaves to the elements of the earth. Every earth element [earth, wind, fire, water, etc.] was controlled by a god in their religious beliefs.

b. Jews also were in bondage to the elements of the earth. They observed new moons, feast days of the calendar, etc. - THE LAW!

4. **Verses 4-5** Paul is making a cultural reference the Galatians would understand. In Roman culture, when the father thought the son was ready, he formally adopted the child and acknowledge him as son and heir. He was given the toga virilis in place of the toga praetexta which he had previously worn.

a. Jesus was sent in the fulness of time. This was after all the prophetic utterances were given about him (over 300). **Daniel 9:24-26**.

b. God sent a Son born under the law to redeem people who were under the law. **Matthew 5:17, Matthew 5:20**.

c. Jesus redeemed us (bought us back) so we could receive the adoption as sons (*yhiothesia*). This word means son, by characteristic “If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.” The word for child used in the first three verses is *nepios*. This word means small child/child by birthright.

d. How does a nepios differ from a huio? With a small child we have to tell them don’t touch the hot stove. We don’t do this with an adult because they have come to a place of maturity.

e. Paul is making the point that prior to Jesus we had to be told what to do because we didn’t have the capacity to make right choices. Humanity had hearts of stone **Ezekiel 36:26**. Because of what Jesus did at the cross, the Holy Spirit moves inside of us and changes our nature. We aren’t under the law anymore.

i. Baby Christian caveat - With baby Christians we have to tell them what to do because they usually aren’t sensitive to the Holy Spirit yet. They have to be told to read their Bible, pray, go to church, etc. A mature Christian does the right thing because they have matured into their true nature as an heir. Can be trusted.

5. **Verses 6** We cry out “Daddy” because of our intimacy with the Father due to what Jesus did. He’s inside of us! The veil is torn. We don’t have to ascend into heaven or descend into hell to earn it. He is inside of us. **Your heart is crying Daddy right now!! Can you hear it?**

6. **Verse 7** As we mature into the fulness of His love we become heirs of Christ like the Roman adopted Son. The key to maturing is realizing that everything given is a free gift that and we can’t earn it. Legalism is a sign of immaturity.

III. Conclusion - Read **Psalm 2:7-8**. When we realize we are Jesus’s inheritance we discover our value. This gives us the capacity to pray with confidence. Produces boldness.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer