

HEAVEN'S FREEDOM #2

(A Study of Galatians)

Introduction: Paul's testimony (homework from last week).

- Who was Paul persecuting before his conversion?
- How long did Paul wait before contacting Peter?
 - After another 14 years, Paul went again to Jerusalem.
 - What was the issue that arose?
- Paul's summary of change in his life:

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

1. The Prison.

- Have you ever felt like a prisoner in some areas of your life?
- Prisoner to expectations:
 - Other people's or our own.
 - Lifestyle
 - Standards of behaviour.

Galatians 3:22 *But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.*

- Prisoner of sin
 - Sin is falling short:
 - In my relationship with God.
 - Of my potential.
 - God created us to have purpose, but we fall short.

Galatians 3:24 *So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.*

2. Two Destinies.

ILLUSTRATION: Hagar and Sarah.

- Abraham and Sarah waited 10 years for the fulfillment of the promise given in Genesis 16.
- Then they took matters into their own hands...
 - Resulted in birth of Ishmael, and much later of Isaac.

Galatians 4:28-31 *Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance of the free woman's son." Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.*

- Get rid of the old way of doing things.
- The inheritance comes to those who believe IN, not ABOUT.

3. Full Rights as a Believer.

- We hear a lot about our "rights":
 - Right to free speech
 - Right to demonstrate.
- Our rights start with who we are.

Galatians 3:26-27 *You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ.*

- Sons through faith.
- Baptized into Christ: When did that happen?
 - Born of the Spirit
 - Received the Holy Spirit
- Baptism: Baptism in the early church¹ was symbolized by going under the water (meaning death to the old life) and being raised to now life

¹ Benson commentary.

(as you rise from the water.) Also, they would baptize people in their old dirty clothes and change into new clean clothes after baptism.

Galatians 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

- None is greater than the other.

Galatians 3:29 *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

- You are Abraham's seed.

4. Cry of the Spirit.

- How can I be sure?

Galatians 4:4 *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law...*

- God the Father sent God the Son
- Born of a woman.
- Born under law:
 - Laws of life.
 - If he skinned his knee, it hurt...
 - Laws of society
 - Moral and religious laws.
 - He kept it all.

Galatians 4:5 *...to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.*

- Some translations have the word adoption.
- Full rights – not part

➔ PTO for Matrix.....

(a) Difference between Sons of God and Slaves:

	<i>Sons</i>	<i>Slaves / Children of Slaves</i>
<i>Relationship:</i>	Sons have fathers, emphasizing a loving relationship.	Slaves have masters, which is based on expediency.
<i>Family:</i>	Sons are part of the family, enjoying greater liberty and rights.	Slaves have no rights.
<i>Autonomy:</i>	Sons gain autonomy as they mature, making their own choices.	Slaves only follow orders.
<i>Love:</i>	Sons experience love from their fathers. There's no fear of punishment.	Fear of punishment / retribution.
<i>Legal Rights:</i>	Sons have legal rights and are beloved.	Slaves lack legal rights, treated as property
<i>Inheritance:</i>	Receive their Father's legacy	Slaves don't inherit anything.

(b) Difference between God's Family and those NOT of His family:

	<i>Sons of God</i>	<i>Children of Slaves</i>
<i>Treatment:</i>	God treats us as sons - and we are joint heirs with Jesus.	Satan treats people as slaves.

In summary, being a "son of God" means having a loving relationship, family privileges, autonomy, love, and inheritance, while being a "child of a slave" lacks these benefits.

Galatians 4:6-7 *Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.*

- Spirit in our hearts.
- Cry out, "Abba, father!"