

Live Authentically

#10 Christ-Shaped People: The Message of Galatians

Galatians 4:1-11

Steve King, Senior Pastor

You were _____

Galatians 4:1-3

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, ²but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. ³So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

You are _____

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Live authentically!

Galatians 4:8-11

⁸However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. ⁹But 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? ¹⁰You observe days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Monday: Read Galatians 4:1-11. Look for repetitions, contrasts and God's purposes. Summarize the point of the passage in one sentence.

Tuesday: Re-read this week's passage. In the first century Greek and Roman culture, what was the difference between an heir and a son? What does the passage reveal about your status as a believer in Christ?

Wednesday: Read this week's passage once more. Focus on temporal (e.g. "now"), contrasting (e.g. "but"), purpose (e.g. "so that/that"), and being (e.g. "is," "were," "are") words and the meaning they help provide. Turn your findings into one application for life.

Thursday: Read Galatians 4:6-7. What two things has God provided to those who are sons of God by faith in Christ? How should these "grace-gifts" shape your life?

Friday: Read Galatians 4:8-11. Not knowing God equals slavery to other gods. Knowing God equals freedom in Christ. What specifically were the Galatians doing that caused Paul to wonder if he had labored over them in vain? Why does Paul call observing days, months, seasons, and years as going back to weak, worthless, and elemental things?

Saturday: Read Galatians 4:12-20 and bring a friend to church with you!