

Taking it Home:

- **READ Gal. 4:8-9.** Paul is asking the Galatians why in the world they would want to go back and re-enslave themselves under the bondage of Mosaic Law after they've experienced total freedom through the grace of God and redemption through Jesus Christ. Would you desire to go back and be re-enslaved under the demands of the law? **Examine yourself:** Are there things in your life that are re-enslaving you into legalism? Make a list of things which might be re-enslaving you, i.e., unbiblical rules, regulations, ceremonies, or traditions. Repent of these and seek forgiveness from our Lord.

- If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior then the Bible says you are adopted into God's family and are called a "*son of God*" (Rom. 8:14-17). What is an heir? What are the privileges of an heir? Romans 8:17 says if you are a believer you are also "*an heir of God and fellow heirs with Christ.*" What does that mean to you? Do you understand who you are in Christ? You are a child of the King, a prince of nobility to the King of Kings and Lord of LORDS; purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. Knowing this, why would you want to live your life any other way, knowing you are viewed by God as His son? LIVE your life for God!

Related Resources:

- Dr. Charles Swindoll, *Grace Awakening*
- Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel*
- Mike Wilkerson, *Redemption*
- Dr. John MacArthur, *Slave*

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

Our Remarkable Inheritance

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelfc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of June 3, 2012

Galatians 4:1-20

Quick Review: Because of the work of Jesus Christ, those who trust Him by faith receive a remarkable inheritance wherein we all “receive adoption as sons.” This allows us access to God, who we can call “Abba” and “Father.” In Christ, we are no longer slaves, but sons. Paul demonstrates how faith in Jesus yields acceptance in God’s family, validated by the presence of the Holy Spirit and intimacy with Abba.

My Story:

- Share an experience when you helped someone even though they didn’t deserve it; you could call it undeserved favor. How did you feel about giving something or helping someone that didn’t deserve anything? How did the person you gave “undeserved favor” to react to your kindness?
- Have you ever been liberated (freed) from a bad situation? Share your experience. After being liberated from the bad situation did you ever desire to go back into that bad situation? Why not? Share.

Growing Deeper:

- What was Pastor Matthew’s interpretation of Gal. 4:3? “*So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world?*” What did Pastor Matthew say about the “*elemental things of the world?*”
- What is a slave? Whom does a slave serve? Why does Paul use the metaphor of “*slavery*” to describe unbelievers who are still under the law and sin? **READ & Interpret Rom. 6:6; 17, 19-20; Gal. 4:8.** How is a person freed from physical slavery? How is a person freed from slavery to sin? (**Cf. Rom. 6:6; 17-18; 1 Cor. 7:22-23; Gal. 4:6-7**).
- The Apostle Paul states that once an unbeliever trusts Jesus Christ as Savior by faith, they are no longer slaves to the law or sin; their new Master who purchased them out of slavery is Jesus Christ. The slaves who are freed from the bondage of the law and sin are divinely adopted into the family of God and are called “sons.” What is your understanding of ancient Roman adoption? What are the rights and privileges of an adopted child? **READ and interpret the clear meaning of adoption as “sons of God”: Romans 8:14-17; 23; 9:4; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5-6.** Why are both men and women called “sons?”
- Jesus “*redeemed*” (vs. 4) believers from slavery to sin and now they are freed from slavery to sin because they’ve been purchased with by a price—the blood of Christ (**Cf. 1 Cor. 6:19-20**). Can a person be “redeemed” by upholding the Law? What did Pastor Matthew say about the meaning of the word “*redeem*?” What is the 1st century Roman cultural history of the word, “*redeem*?”
- Is the Apostle Paul being arrogant and prideful as he tells the Galatians believers to “*become as I am*” (Vs. 12)? What did the Apostle Paul mean by that statement? **READ and interpret: Romans 6:22; 8:15; Acts 13:38-39; 2 Cor. 3:17; Gal. 5:1.**
- Paul often called himself a “*slave of Jesus Christ?*” **Read & Interpret: Rom. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:1; 9:1; 2 Cor. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:1.** Why would Paul continue to call himself a slave of Christ even until the time of his death? Wasn’t Paul considered a “son of God” adopted into God’s family? What did Paul mean by calling himself a “*slave to Christ?*”