

# GALATIANS

DAY 3

Galatians 4

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**TODAY'S THEME: AN UNHEALTHY FOCUS ON WORKS ACTUALLY ARRESTS MY SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

## **Galatians 4:1 (NLT)**

“Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had.”

## **Galatians 4:5 (NLT)**

“God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.”

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Paul shares some incredible truths in this chapter - too many to mention. In Jewish culture, though an heir by birthright owned the entire state, they were placed under guardian until an age that would be determined by the father. They had no freedom and couldn't make any decisions, until they came of age as a “son.” You'll remember from the previous chapter, that the law was set up as the guardian until Christ would come. So Paul is telling these people that Christ has come - they've received their adoption as sons.

The issue with the people in Galatia is that it seemed that they were tempted to go back to the Mosaic Law. We're not talking The 10 Commandments here. Jewish teachers and religious leaders had actually expanded those into 613 individual commandments. Paul, as a spiritual father was so concerned about this. They had been, prior to their conversion, enslaved to the gods of that day, and now they were on the verge of choosing to be enslaved by the law. Their spiritual development was being arrested by committing to live according to the law. Some would even say, their salvation was at risk. They were choosing something weak over something that was sufficient.

It's easy for us to point the finger, hey? “If I were in their shoes, I would have known better.” But how easy is it for us to fall into some of those same habits? Maybe it's not Mosaic Law. It could be “Christian activity” though. “I serve on this team.” “I read my bible every day.” “I go to church regularly.” “I tithe.” “I” you fill in the blank. It's easy for us to derive value and find identity in the things that we do, rather than just in who we are.

What is God speaking to me about in today's reading?

**MY PRAYER FOR TODAY:**