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Sermon Notes

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No Longer Slaves but Sons

Galatians 4:1-11

One of the most powerful Christian novels of all time was written by a former Civil War General named Lew Wallace. It is the amazing story of *Ben Hur*, made famous by a movie starring Charlton Heston. In that story, a Jewish nobleman named Judah Ben Hur was wrongly condemned to be a galley slave by a boyhood Roman friend named Messalla. For three years, Judah served as a slave rowing Roman ships and suffering greatly. But in the story, Judah ben Hur saved the life of the commander of the ship, a powerful Roman tribune named Quintus Arrias. As a result, this Roman man was filled with deep affection and gratitude toward Judah. Quintus Arrias had no heir, so the powerful Roman adopted Judah ben Hur and made him his son and legal heir.

In the novel: “Good friends, this is my son and heir, who, as he is to take my property- if it be the will of the gods that I leave any- shall be known to you by my name. I pray you all to love him as you love me.”

This story may strike many as preposterous – why would a Roman tribune adopt a lowly Jewish slave? But General Wallace was a Christian... and he knew that something far more amazing happens every time a sinner becomes a Christian: that formerly rebellious slave is set free and eternally adopted by Almighty God and becomes a co-heir with Christ of the New Heavens and New Earth!!

Perhaps the most astonishing aspect of our salvation is our adoption... and in this text today, we will meditate on this gem of grace.

I. From Enslaved Childhood to Free Maturity (vs. 1-3)

Galatians 4:1-3 ***What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ² He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. ³ So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world.***

A. Paul’s Train of Thought: Links to Galatians 3:23-29

1. Vs. 1: “What I am saying is...” Paul continues his train of thought

- a. In some ways, Galatians 3:23-29 was a climax of his whole argument to the Galatians
 - b. These Gentiles had heard the gospel and believed it!
 - c. At the moment of hearing with faith, they were justified... forgiven of all their sins
 - d. At that same moment, they received the gift of the Holy Spirit... the spirit of ADOPTION... the Spirit who cries "Abba, Father"... they became SONS OF GOD
2. Central idea: Gentiles are sons of God and heirs of Abraham through faith in Christ

Galatians 3:26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus

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

3. Time of Confinement to a Time of Freedom/Inheritance

- a. Both Galatians 3:23-29 and Galatians 4:1-11 compare a previous confinement (even enslavement) to a present time of freedom and inheritance

Galatians 3:23 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed.

Galatians 4:1 What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave

Galatians 4:3 when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world.

Galatians 4:2 until the time set by his father.

- b. Both passages speak of a guardianship that has now ended

^{ESV} Galatians 3:24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 4:2 [The underage child] is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father.

- c. Both passages speak of a transition so that we are no longer under that confinement

^{ESV} Galatians 3:25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law

d. Both passages speak of our status as sons of God, no longer slaves

Galatians 3:26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus

Galatians 4:5 that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Galatians 4:7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son

e. Both passages call us HEIRS... standing ready to receive an inheritance

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

Galatians 4:7 since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

B. Why Does Paul Repeat All These Themes?

1. Clearly he wants to emphasize the almost incalculable transformation that has come over them now that they are Christians
2. And he wants to do it because they have relapsed back into an old way of thinking
3. When they should be living a whole new kind of life as adopted sons and daughters of the living God, they are thinking like slaves who are still bound to a cruel master
4. Paul yearns for them to UNDERSTAND THEIR STATUS as adopted children of God
5. AND to live out that freedom in holy lives that honor God

C. The Move from Childhood to Maturity

1. Powerful and familiar themes in their culture
 - a. The movement from childhood to adulthood
 - b. The movement from slaves to freedmen
 - c. The movement from stranger to adopted sons
2. First, from childhood to adulthood
 - a. The essential enslavement of an underage child

Galatians 4:1-2 What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ² He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father.

- b. The analogy applied to ISRAEL FIRST
- c. Paul has to explain why the Laws of Moses were ever enacted
 - i) The Galatians may well be asking Paul, “If we are not supposed to be circumcised and keep the ceremonial laws like the dietary regulations, why did God give those laws in the first place?”
 - ii) The Judaizers have been overwhelming the Galatians with clear teachings from the Old Covenant, from Exodus and Leviticus and Deuteronomy... plain verses which came from the mouth of God
 - iii) WHY DID GOD GIVE THE LAW only to repeal it later?
 - iv) Paul uses this “underage child” analogy to explain the temporary role of the Law in the overall plan of God
- d. The Jewish nation was in some sense God’s heir... God’s adopted son

Exodus 4:22-23 Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, ²³ and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me."

Deuteronomy 1:31 There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.

Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

- e. For an extended period of time, the Jewish nation was held under guardianship to the Law... the nation was SUBJECT TO GUARDIANS and TRUSTEES... it had to obey laws and regulations and strictures and precepts... like circumcision and the dietary laws
- f. And yet, the whole time, the Jewish nation were seen by God in a big picture sense to be Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise
- g. In many ways, the child in the wealthy home is little different than a slave
- h. The child has to OBEY the laws and rules of the household or suffer punishments
- i. The child is not FREE to walk away or do as he pleases... he is little different than a slave, even though some day he will inherit the whole estate

- j. So also the descendants of Abraham, the Jewish nation, would someday inherit the whole earth and the Kingdom of God

Romans 4:13 Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world

- k. This status of the Jewish nation was TEMPORARY, like that of a child who comes to maturity... they were schooled by the constant demands of the Law

Charles Spurgeon: “The Jewish [nation] of old was under the yoke of the law; its sacrifices were continual and its ceremonies endless; new moons and feasts must be kept; jubilees must be observed and pilgrimages made: in fact, the yoke was too heavy for feeble flesh to bear. The law followed the Israelite into every corner, and dealt with him upon every point: it had to do with his garments, his meat, his drink, his bed, his board, and everything about him: it treated him like a boy at school who has a rule for everything. Now that faith has come we are full grown sons, and therefore we are free from the rules which govern the school of the child.”

- l. When the heir gets to the SET AGE, he can then come into his full status in the household... that is a picture of salvation in Christ

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Those “under the law” were Jews, not Gentiles... but they were locked up under the guardianship of the law until Jesus had made his entry into the world

3. Applied to INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS

- a. This analogy is also applied to individual Christians, not just to the Jewish nation as a whole
- b. The Galatians (like Jewish Christians) also had a time of childhood and slavery that came to an end when Christ entered their lives

II. From Slavery to Adoption (vs. 3-8)

The Fact of Our Slavery:

Galatians 4:3 So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world.

The Good News of Our Redemption by Christ:

Galatians 4:4-5 *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.*

The Declaration of Our Status as Sons:

Galatians 4:7 *So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.*

A. The Facts of Our Slavery

1. Paul puts all Christians in one analogy in verse 3...

Galatians 4:3 *So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world.*

2. The essence of slavery: NO FREEDOM!! There's NO WAY OUT

3. There is a sense of domination... and especially if the master is cruel

4. What are the "basic principles of the world" (NIV) or "elementary principles of the world" (ESV) or "elemental forces of the world" (HCSB)??

5. He'll mention them again in verses 8-9

[HCSB] *Galatians 4:8-9* *But in the past, when you didn't know God, you were enslaved to things that by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now, since you know God, or rather have become known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and bankrupt elemental forces? Do you want to be enslaved to them all over again?*

6. The word is related to a chemical term that is used to talk about the basic building blocks of chemistry... the "elements"

7. In Paul's day, it could either refer to

a. the "fundamental components" of the universe... the basic building blocks from which all things were made (usually identified as air, earth, fire, and water)

b. OR the basic ideas or "essential principles" of some area of study... like the "ABC's" in a primer

c. OR invisible spiritual beings (like demons or even angels)

B. Enslaved to the ELEMENTS

1. It could mean that, before faith in Christ came, they were all ENSLAVED to the basic forces of the universe... the basic LAWS of morality that they could never keep... and the demonic forces that rule the world of the unregenerate
2. If the “basic principles” of morality were in mind, they were a cruel master in that they could only bring death (Jews under the law or moral Gentiles under philosophy)
3. If the “elemental forces” of the world were demons, they were malicious and intended only the agony and death of their subjects
4. The slavery analogy is powerful:
 - a. Apart from Christ, every sinner is a SLAVE

John 8:34 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”

- b. Satan is the cruel master of the world

Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Luke 11:21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe.

- c. Slaves are POWERLESS to change their situation

Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

- d. Our slavery to sin and to Satan meant we were also in slavery to DEATH

Romans 5:21 sin reigned in death

Sin is PERSONIFIED as a vicious, cruel tyrant... an ABUSIVE MASTER that seeks our destruction, our suffering, our death

We could not escape the power of sin and its inevitable end—death

C. We Were ALL Slaves Before Christ Came

1. Our condition was desperate

2. No matter how we understand the word “elementary forces” we come up losers
3. We couldn’t keep even the most basic principles of morality perfectly... the ABCs of right and wrong eluded us—“Be a good person” (whatever that meant); “Be generous”; “Treat others well”; “Don’t hurt people”;
4. We were afflicted by the basic nature of human existence... the most elementary drives of the human body—the drive for food and for love—inevitably through the flesh drove us further and further from God
5. We were dominated by unseen spiritual enemies... demons who harassed us and afflicted us—they lured us with temptations and accused us of wrongdoing
6. WE WERE ENSLAVED to sin and Satan and death... and we could not do a thing about it

III. Christ Redeemed Us From Slavery (vs. 4-5)

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

A. “In the Fullness of Time”

1. God had a perfect timetable for the coming of Jesus Christ into the world
2. The salvation plan of God was worked out before the creation of the world
3. For centuries, God had been predicting it through the prophets...but still the people waited
4. God is very patient... it had been over five centuries from the last prophet, Malachi
5. Since that time, there had been the rise and fall of the Medo-Persian Empire, and then the rise and fall of the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great and his successors... now, a new power had risen—ROME!!
6. How shall we understand “the fullness of time”? John MacArthur gives us a sense of how right the time was for the Messiah to come
 - a. The time was right **religiously**: the Jews had come back from exile to Babylon and were living under Gentile domination, but had repudiated completely the idolatry that led to the exile; also, they had set up synagogues all over the Greek-Roman world where the Jewish faith was being taught

- b. The time was right **culturally**: Alexander the Great's conquests and his zeal for spreading Greek culture meant almost everyone in that region spoke Greek... it made the spread of the gospel much easier
- c. The time was right **politically**: the Roman empire had risen, unifying that part of the world economically and by commerce and excellent roads; the *pax Romana* made the world a very stable place, and evangelists could travel those excellent Roman roads with a sense of security
- d. Each of these factors contributed to the rapid spread of the gospel

B. God "Sent Forth" His Son

- 1. Strong Greek word... implies a travelling to a different region for the purpose of a mission
- 2. So Christ was sent forth from heaven to earth to serve God's purpose
- 3. God sent His only begotten Son into the world to save the world from its sin

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

C. Born of a Woman

- 1. Just celebrated the mystery of the incarnation... FULLY GOD and FULLY HUMAN

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- 2. The focus here: born of a woman... the fulfillment of the first prophecy every uttered about Him

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

- 3. How Jesus could be both the Son of God and the Son of Man?

Luke 1:30-35 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel

answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Jesus was "born of a woman" but not of a man... He had no human father, but was rightly called the Son of God

D. Born Under the Law

1. Very significant statement for our understanding of the work of Christ
2. Jesus was completely obedient to the Law of Moses
3. He was in many ways the perfect fulfillment to the statement Paul made earlier in this very chapter: though an heir, he lived like a slave under laws, rules and regulations

Galatians 4:1-2 What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ² He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father.

4. Jesus OWNED THE ENTIRE WORLD... the world belonged to Him... but He lived in perfect submission to every detail of the Laws of Moses
5. Jesus was perfectly LAW-ABIDING... He perfectly obeyed the great summary of the Law that He Himself gave us

Matthew 22:37-39 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

6. He also obeyed the smallest detailed Laws as well

Matthew 5:17-18 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

7. Jesus' perfect obedience to the Law was the righteousness He imputed to us!!!

Tim Keller: "Jesus lived the life we should have lived, and died the death we should have died!"

"...the Lord Christ fulfilled the whole law for us; He did not only undergo the penalty of it due unto our sins, but also yielded that perfect obedience which it did require... Christ's fulfilling of the law, in obedience unto its commands, is no less imputed unto us for our justification than His undergoing the penalty of it is." - **John Owen**

E. To Redeem Those Under the Law

1. The word “redeem” fits this context PERFECTLY!! It is the word used for the deliverance of a slave by the payment of a price

Deuteronomy 15:15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price.

2. Christ redeemed us also from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us... paying the penalty we deserved for our sins

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

3. By Christ’s death, the Law no longer has any claim on us
4. We are BROUGHT OUT FROM UNDER the Law... by the blood of Christ

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

5. We are no longer under what once bound us... we are REDEEMED from our former tyrannical masters and have been set free!!

Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

F. That We Might Receive the Full Rights as Sons

1. The joy of emancipation is muted by the harsh realities of life on your own

I was free, but there was no one to welcome me to the land of freedom. I was a stranger in a strange land. —Harriet Tubman

Hamp Santee, had been enslaved in Mississippi: “After surrender, I can remember the former slaves were so happy. They just rang bells, blew horns and shouted like they were crazy. Then they brought a brand new rope, and cut it up into little pieces and they gave everyone a little piece. And whenever they look at the rope they should remember that they were free from bondage.”

Lafayette Price of Morgan County, Ala.: “I’m free as a frog because a frog had freedom to jump when [and where] he please.”

Yet many newly freed realized that this was a time of great uncertainty and danger.

W.L. Bost, freedom meant being “just like a turtle,” cautiously peeking out of the shell to “understand the lay of the land.”

2. The slaves in the south sometimes hardly knew what to feel by the news that they were now free... they still had mouths to feed and bodies to clothe... how would they survive?? Some slave amazingly even chose to still live on plantations where they'd been harshly mistreated because they had nowhere else to go
3. This is where the twin themes of EMANCIPATION and ADOPTION become so amazing!!
 - a. Free from what bound us... free from what terrorized us... free from what enslaved us... free from what condemned us... free from what tortured us
 - b. BUT adopted by a perfect Father to be cared for, provided for, trained, disciplined, protected, empowered

IV. The Full Rights of Adoption (vs. 5-7)

Galatians 4:5-7 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. ⁶ Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

A. The Most Astonishing Aspect of Our Salvation: Adoption!

1. How can it be that the infinitely powerful God of the universe should ADOPT former rebels and make them His sons and daughters??
2. Adoption was well-known in the Roman world... a wealthy nobleman could adopt a boy and make him his legal heir
3. He would train him and prepare him and at the right time, he would inherit the entire estate
4. So God has done to us

B. Our Sonship is not by NATURE but by GRACE

1. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God
2. He shares the exact nature of the Father

Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being

3. We are adopted by the sovereign grace of God CONTRARY to our nature

Titus 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

C. This Only Comes by Faith in Christ... It is SUPERNATURAL!!

John 1:12-13 But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God.

D. The Confirmation of Our Adoption: the Indwelling Holy Spirit

Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

1. The Holy Spirit is given as a deposit proving our final inheritance
2. The Spirit speaks the language of a child of God... "Abba" is the Aramaic for "Daddy"... a term of tremendous endearment
3. Jesus used it powerfully in the Garden
4. So, this is the Spirit of JESUS as He speaks to His Father
5. It is a proof that the Father loves us like His loves His Son

John 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

John 17:23 I in them and you in me. ... You have loved them even as you have loved me.

6. The Spirit speaks directly to our hearts confirming our identity as children of God

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

E. Infinitely Rich as Heirs of God

1. Abraham was called "heir of the world"
2. Jesus said "the meek shall inherit the earth"
3. John made this clear promise:

Revelation 21:7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

4. We are STUNNINGLY RICH as heirs of God

V. The Insanity of Sons Living Like Slaves (vs. 8-11)

Galatians 4:8-11 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that you know God-- or rather are known by God-- how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? ¹⁰ You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! ¹¹ I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

A. Former Way of Life (in Paganism)

1. Ignorant of God... did not know Him or His holy ways
2. Living in lust and pagan revelry; sacrificing to pagan deities; living under the domination of demons

1 Corinthians 10:20 ...The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God

3. Enslaved by those who BY NATURE were NOT GODS... demons were wicked, hostile, restless, murderous...
4. That was the former way of life enslaved to the elemental principles of the world... living for your stomachs and dominated by invisible forces of evil

B. Now... You Know God... and Even More Importantly, GOD KNOWS YOU!!

1. This is the radical transformation of the gospel!!
2. Everything has changed... where once you were ignorant of the true God, the holy God; the God who created heaven and earth by the word of His power; the God who created man in his image and put them in the Garden of Eden; the God who condemned man to death for sin, but graciously promised a Savior; the God who destroyed the world with a flood, but rescued Noah and his family; the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob; the God of the Exodus... the God of the prophets... this God you pagans were ignorant of, you now YOU KNOW HIM... especially you KNOW HIM because you have come to believe in Jesus!! You know Him because the Spirit is revealing Him to you every single day...
3. BUT NOW that you know God... or even better GOD KNOWS YOU!!!
 - a. How terrifying if God doesn't know you

Matthew 7:23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

b. How delightful if God CLAIMS YOU AS HIS OWN!!

c. This “known by God” is intimate, total, personal... like the deep love a father has for his own children; so God knows us as His own

Psalm 139:1-5 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. ² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. ⁵ You hem me in-- behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

C. How Can You Go Back to the Old Way of Life

Vs. 9-10 how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? ¹⁰ You are observing special days and months and seasons and years!

1. This is really amazing!! In effect Paul is saying that the Jewish, legalistic works-based religion of the Judaizers is NO DIFFERENT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD from the PAGAN RELIGION they used to follow!!
2. It is NO IMPROVEMENT AT ALL to call polytheistic people out of polytheism into legalistic Christ-less Judaism
3. It is the SAME THING after all
4. Their mechanical, joyless obedience of the new calendar of special days and months and seasons and years means that they have not really understood the true gospel
5. AMAZING!!! Christless Judaism is not different than rank PAGANISM!!!

D. Paul’s Fear

Galatians 4:11 I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

Galatians 4:19-20 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰ how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

2 Corinthians 11:28-29 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

VI. Applications

A. Understand the Spiritual Condition of Lost People: Enslaved

Galatians 4:8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.

Pagan religions are TRAGIC and DEMONIC!!

Experiences in Japan, seeing people clap to wake the gods; seeing little children leave offerings at the corner shrines

But the enslavement of our non-Christian neighbors here in America is just as tragic

Enslaved to demonic influences they cannot see

Enslaved to the drives of their flesh

Enslaved to false religions

Enslaved to worldly ambitions

Enslaved to false ideas of god and of their own goodness

B. Understand the Gift of Redemption through Faith in Christ

1. This passage proclaims the joy of REDEMPTION!!! The slaves set free through the blood of Christ
2. Understand how delightful this emancipation is... the incredible freedom that is ours now
3. Freedom from GUILT and CONDEMNATION

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

4. Give thanks to God for this incredible gift!!

C. Come to Christ!

D. Celebrate Your Emancipation: You are FREE... No Longer a Slave

E. Delight in the Privileges of Your Adoption as Sons/Daughters of God

1. Love relationship with Almighty God
2. Security
3. Freedom from fear
4. Provision
5. Protection

6. Discipline
 7. Conformity to the family nature
 8. Access to the Father
 9. Fellowship with brothers and sisters
 10. Shared family mission
 11. Holy Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing inheritance
 12. Holy Spirit as Counselor
 13. Authority (to reign with Christ)
 14. Called by God's Name
 15. Known by God
 16. Knowing God
 17. Freedom from bondage to cruel masters
 18. Constant forgiveness
- F. Don't Live Like a Slave
1. Not a slave to legalistic religion
 2. Not a slave to fear
 3. Not a slave to sin
- G. Embrace the Adoption Ministry Here at FBC