

YOUR FREEDOM IN CHRIST AS A PRIVILEGED SON

(Galatians 4:1-7)

I. PAUL DEFENDS HIS AUTHORITY AND THE ORIGINATION OF HIS GOSPEL (Gal. 1 & 2)

II. PAUL DEFENDS JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH (Gal. 3 & 4)

A. The PROOFS that the Gospel of GRACE is true (3:1-29)

B. The POSITION of SONSHIP in Christ (4:1-7)

1. Paul's illustration (4:1-2)

- a. In Greco-Roman culture, a free _____ (*nepios*) still functioned like a _____ though he was the heir and _____ to be. (4:1)

- b. A young child was _____ the authority of guardians and stewards _____ the time _____ by the father. (4:2)

2. Paul's explanation (4:3-5)

- a. In a comparable way, when the Jews were children (*nepios*), they were in bondage _____ the elementary and _____ governance of the Law of Moses. (4:3)

- b. This temporary bondage to the Law ceased when "God _____ His _____" (4:4-5)
 - (1) The *timing* of Christ's 1st Advent was when "the _____ of the _____ had _____." (v. 4a)

* What did Paul mean by this?

- (2) The *authority* involved in Christ's 1st Advent was _____ the _____.
(v. 4b)

(3) The *means* described in Christ's 1st Advent was being "_____ of a _____." (v. 4c)

* What should this tell us about Jesus' birth and His person?

(4) The *dispensation* of Christ's 1st Advent entailed being "*born* _____ *the* _____." (v. 4d)

(5) The *purposes* of Christ's 1st Advent was to "_____ *those who were* _____ *the Law*" and to _____ them as sons. (v. 5)

* Why would this statement be so significant to Paul's audience and to that culture?

3. Paul's personal application (4:6-7)

a. Regarding believers *corporately* (plural "you") – "*Because you are* _____, *God has sent forth the* _____ *of His Son into your* _____, *crying out, "Abba, Father!"*" (4:6)

* Did you notice the parallel to v. 4?

* Why would Paul use this term "*Abba Father,*" and what does it mean?

b. Regarding believers *personally* (singular "you") – *you are no longer a* _____ *but a* _____, *and if a son, then an* _____ *of God through Christ.* (4:7)

* What is the significance of being an "*heir of God*"?

* How can you apply this in your own life?