



## Study Guide 3 June 2018

Series: Galatians

Text: Galatians 4:1-7

*Hello! This guide is provided to help facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage that was preached the preceding Sunday with a focus on applying God's truths to our lives individually and corporately. As such we encourage you to budget sufficient time for application questions. A recommendation would be to spend at least half your time pondering and discussing questions that are application focused.*

### **Overview of Galatians**

Apostle Paul wrote the present letter to the churches of Galatia (1:1; 5:2). He expressed his astonishment on their openness to the judaizers (cf. 1:6) who led people to abide to the law and the works of the flesh as a means of salvation. He defended the doctrine of justification by faith (like in the letters to the Romans) both in its theological (chaps. 3, 4) and practical (chaps. 5, 6) implications. He warned Galatians of the dire consequences of abandoning such essential doctrine.

### **Big Idea of the Text**

In Old Testament times, God's people, though children, looked no different from slaves as they were under a guardian – the law. We ourselves were once slaves to the elementary principles of this world, trying and failing to justify ourselves by our works. But God has now sent his Son into the world, and through Jesus we have been adopted as God's children. Because we are God's children through Christ, God has also sent the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of his own Son, into our hearts to remind us of our status as his children.

### **Opening Question**

**Q1.** What's the difference between being a slave and a son?

**Let's read:**

- Galatians 4:1-7

*1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

**Q2.** In what way was the Mosaic law like a guardian over God's people? (v2)

**Q3.** What are the 'elementary principles' of the world that we were once enslaved to? (v3)

**Q4.** What has Christ's redemption achieved for us?

**Q5.** Why is living under the law today akin to being a slave?

**Q6.** What does being a son/child of God entitle us to?

**Q7.** The term Abba (v. 6) is the term Jesus himself used to address God as "Father" when he prayed in Gethsemane (Mark 14:36). How should such intimate terminology affect our prayers?<sup>[1]</sup>

**Q8.** What is the connection between the work of the Son and the Spirit?<sup>[2]</sup>

**Q9.** How does knowing you are God's child change the way you relate to God and other Christians?

**Q10.** When we don't feel joyful as Christians or loved by God, what do we need to do?<sup>[3]</sup> How can we help others who don't feel joyful as Christians, or who don't feel loved by God?

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[1] John Stott, *John Stott Bible Studies: Galatians: Experiencing the Grace of Christ* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998), 36.

[2] Tim Keller, *Galatians: Gospel Matters* (The Good Book Company, 2013), 23.

[3] Tim Keller, *Galatians: Gospel Matters* (The Good Book Company, 2013), 72.

## References

Stott, John. *John Stott Bible Studies: Galatians: Experiencing the Grace of Christ*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Keller, Timothy. *Galatians: Gospel Matters*. UK: The Good Book Company, 2013.

Keller, Timothy. *Galatians For You*: The Good Book Company, 2012.