

Galatians Handout

Week Eighteen

Verses 1-7: In illustration, a comparison, a transaction, a transformation.

An illustration

4 Now I say, as long as the heir is a child (minor/simple-minded person), he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians/tutors and managers (household administrators) until the date set by the father.

A comparison

3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

We?:

The Jews.

3:23 But before faith came, we were kept in *custody* under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our *tutor* to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

Everyone else before being redeemed. Bondage to what?

Elemental—

World/Cosmos: All created order (Rom. 1:20, Eph. 1:4) This planet (Eph. 1:10, Jn. 1:9)

Humans (Rom. 3:6, 19, 1 Jn. 2:15-17) Stuff of creation (Mar. 8:36)

Current world structures (Mat. 4:8, 1 Cor. 1:20) Zeitgeist/mood, thinking of the times (1 Cor. 2:12)

Bondage-- whatever it is in the cosmos you look to other than Jesus, that thing is what controls you, determines your choices and forms the framework for how you see and operate in the world. You are “under” that thing or person, or philosophy or story you tell yourself.

The we is also...

A transaction

4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law

Fullness of time:

Eph. 1:9 He (God) thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans He took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together (in the fullness of time) and summed up in Him (Jesus), everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

Perfect times—

Awful times—

Mark 1:14 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “*The time is fulfilled*, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Make this personal

God sent forth His son: exapostello

It implies preexistence.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. *He was in the beginning with God.* All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You *before the world was.*

Micah 5:2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.'

Rev. 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

Born of a woman: Why?

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Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed (CHRIST);
He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel

Isa. 7:14 and Mat. 1:18 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

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Born under the law:

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so that He might redeem those who were under the law:

Heb. 10:3 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Heb. 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

that we might receive the adoption as sons.

*The importance of understanding our "sonship".

It is our salvation and freedom. It is why we have the creeds.

It is the means for everything we have.

Mat. 3:16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

A transformation

4:6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7
Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

-Reason:

-Timing:

-The nature of it:

-The purpose:

-Mean/Cost

Plan:

Isa. 40:12 Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last. "Surely My hand founded the earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand together. Assemble, all of you, and listen! Who among them has declared these things?

Isa. 48:16 "Come near to Me, listen to this: from the first I have not spoken in secret, from the time it took place, I was there. And now the LORD God has sent Me, and His Spirit."

The prayer:

Jn. 17: 22 The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, *even as You have loved Me.*

The pain

Mat. 27:35 And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots. And sitting down, they began to keep watch over Him there. And above His head they put up the charge against Him which read, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." At that time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him and saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God; let God rescue Him now, if He delights in Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words. Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

4:7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Jn. 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

Rom. 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Love and glory. But still there's a problem

4:8 However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years.

Things we serve

Elemental things:

Weak and worthless/beggardly:

4:10 You observe days and months and seasons and years. 11 I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

Paul is talking to...

A legalist isn't someone who follows the rules, it's someone who thinks

The antidote

4:9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather (more importantly) *to be known* by (under) God

Why is the emphasis on "being known"?

1 Jn. 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 Cor. 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as *I also have been fully known*.

Discussion

We have been told that we are living in "the end of the ages." (1 Cor. 11). Does what we discussed about "the fullness of time" affect how you think of such verses?

And more importantly--Are you still going to pick up milk on the way home?

Blaise Pascal: God made man in His own image and man returned the compliment.

Where do you think your picture of God may be inaccurate or incomplete? How does this faulty image of Him influence your trust, your thoughts about the world, your thoughts towards yourself or others?