

LESSON 8: GALATIANS 4:1-31

The Flesh vs. the Spirit

1. How does Paul use the position of a child who is heir to an estate to illustrate the position of the Jews under the Law (4:1-7)?
2. What are “basic principles of the world” to which non-Christians are enslaved (v. 3)?
3. List ten things you would know about the Gospel if only Galatians 4:4-7 was available to you?
4. What position did God’s son take by being “born under the Law” (v. 4)?
5. What evidence of sonship and what tremendous privilege does the Christian possess (vv. 6-7)? Compare with Romans 8:15-17.
6. What does it mean to you to say “Abba, Father” (v. 6)?
7. From what bondage have the Galatians escaped? How? What will they be doing if they submit now to domination of the Law?
8. Why is Paul so distressed about the Galatians’ return to spiritual slavery? What “gods” today hold men and women in bondage until they come to the freedom in Christ?

9. What does Paul mean by “become as I am, for I also have become as you are” (v. 12)?

10. Describe the interaction of Paul and the Galatians in their first contact (vv. 13-16). What has occurred to change the relationship?

11. What is the difference between the way Paul is treating the Galatians and the way they are being wooed by the false teachers?

12. Defend Paul from the accusation that he is being just as exclusive and possessive of the Galatians as he charges his opponents with being? Why is the kind of exclusiveness referred to in v. 17 usually involved when “leaders” want to gain full control over others spiritually? How can this be resisted?

13. Describe the allegory of Abraham’s two sons (vv. 21-31). List in two opposing columns the description of each son and his mother.

14. What is the point of the allegory?

15. Why are Christians easily pressured into the religious slavery of legalism, or are they?