

## TODAY'S VERSES:

Galatians 4:1-7  
Luke 15:18-19  
1 John 3:1

THIS WEEK, I WANT TO FOCUS ON THIS TRUTH OF WHAT JESUS HAS DONE, IS DOING, WILL DO...

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## MY NOTES:

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ADOPTION. PAUL'S TWO "SENTS."  
GALATIANS 4:1-7

# Galatians

TO THE CHURCHES IN GALATIA

WEEK FOURTEEN |





# Galatians

TO THE  
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## ADOPTION. PAUL'S TWO "SENTS." GALATIANS 4:1-7

The book of Galatians, unlike some other books in the New Testament, is not written to a specific church. Rather, Galatians is written to an area that contained *multiple* churches who were all having the same problem: people claiming to have authority were coming in and steering these churches toward a form of legalism. These false teachers believed that the only way for the people in these Galatian churches to be children of God was for them to follow the same rules *they* followed (e.g., circumcision and dietary restrictions). The churches in Galatia started to become confused and didn't know what to do, because they wanted to please God. Paul catches wind of what is going on and writes this letter, telling them they are saved by grace—not works—and to trust in the provision of Christ.

- **Where have you been tempted to think others' behavior is more pleasing to God than how you live your life?**
- **At what times are you prone to forget God's provision for you in Jesus?**

Paul moves the Galatians to remember the importance of adoption.

### Read Galatians 4:1-7.

- **How have you sought acceptance in your life?**
- **Has being adopted by God had any impact in your life?**

### The first sent – *God sent forth his Son...that we might receive adoption as sons.*

The phrase "adoption as sons" means "the full rights of sons." In the Greco-Roman world, there was a legal transaction in which a childless, wealthy person adopted an heir. When the legal papers went through, the child became an heir and the father became responsible for the actions of the adoptee. Most Christians only think about their salvation in negative terms ("Jesus died for me, so my sins are forgiven"), but there is another legal part of the transaction.

- **God sent Jesus. What does He accomplish through this sending?**
- **What does it mean to receive sonship, the full right of a child, of God?**

### The second sent – *And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*

The second "sent" is not the son, but the Spirit. The Spirit is sent *someplace* to do *something* and to bring about another result of the Gospel. Prior to being adopted by God, we were in a state of enslavement. Paul says that through Christ, we are set free by the Gospel. Along with that freedom, we receive the Spirit in our hearts. The Spirit does not come to redeem, because that has already been done in Christ. The Spirit works within us to reveal what it means to be sons and daughters of God!

- **What legal status change is there in an adoption?**
- **Has Jesus brought maturity in your faith?**

Jesus (as the Son) dies and resurrects to make us sons and daughters—whether we feel like it or not. The Spirit's job is to help us subjectively and experientially understand that reality. The Spirit comes and assures us of God's adoption into His family. God sends His Spirit into our hearts to bring us the deep security that rests on the objective fact that our sins are forgiven. We completely belong to Him.

- **God sent the Holy Spirit. Are you a child of God, with the Holy Spirit inside of you?**
- **When was the last time you felt assurance/conviction from the Holy Spirit?**

We must think about/meditate on who Jesus is and what He has done: *And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"* We should not ask merely for an experience; what we want is the Holy Spirit's affirming conviction of our sonship.

- **How can believers cry out, "Abba! Father! (daddy!)" to the Creator of the universe?**
  - **Do you often *feel* like a son/daughter of God?**
  - **How has the Spirit claimed what the Son has done in your life?**
  - **How have you experienced what the Spirit does?**
- **How can we better ask the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and minds?**