

# EBC Women's Study

## Lesson 18 Galatians 4:1-7 Part 1

As you read through Galatians, ask God to open your heart, help you and teach you. As the Psalmist prayed: "Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law" (Psalm 119:18).

**Assignment:** Prayerfully read through Galatians focusing on chapter 3-4. Attempt to answer the following discussion questions from the text only. Don't worry if you cannot find all the answers. We will discuss them during our study time.

- 1) **Review:** Considering Paul's argument in ch.3, what Paul has been defending and then verses 3:26-29, how do the verses all relate? (Think about how one becomes "Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." Are you Abraham's offspring, an heir according to promise?)
- 2) Read Galatians 4:1-7, how are verses 1-7 (especially 1, 6-7) related to what Paul has just shared in 3:29?
- 3) In verses 1-2 Paul uses a general illustration, answering the following questions:
  - a. In a general sense what is this illustration about?
  - b. What is being compared and contrasted?
- 4) Verse 3 starts with the phrase "So also we". Who is the "we" and what is being compared to the illustration in verses 1-2? How does Paul apply this illustration to those whom he calls "we."
- 5) Looking at verse 3a, who are the "we" and how are the "we" described?
- 6) What does the phrase in 3b "the elemental things of the world" mean in context? (Hint: See Gal 4:9-10).
- 7) With your above answer in mind and in context, what does Paul mean by the phrase "being held in bondage" (3b)? Also in context, when were the Jews he speaks of held under bondage? (See Gal 4:1-2, 5 also)
- 8) Verse 4 starts with "But", what is being contrasted from what Paul has just been shared?
- 9) From verse 4, what does "fullness of time" mean and who is the Son referring to and how is He described. List any other passages that come to mind that speak of this wonderful truth (e.g. Jn. 3:16, Romans 8:3-4...)

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- 10) From the following what did God bring through Jesus? Explain.
- a. Luke 1:68-69
  - b. Romans 3:24
  - c. 1Cor. 1:30
  - d. Eph. 1:7
  - e. Gal. 3:13
  - f. 1Peter 1:17-21
  - g. Col. 1:13- 14
  - h. Gal. 4:4-5
- 11) From verse 5b, what is the purpose that redemption?
- 12) In the narrow context of this very difficult argument Paul makes, thinking of vs 5 and vs 1-4 answer the following:
- a. Who is the whom "He might redeem from under the Law."
  - b. It's clear from Scripture that Jesus Christ redeems us and we are all adopted as sons through faith in Jesus Christ, but in the narrow context of Paul's argument who is he specifically referring to here in verse 5 and how does it fit his argument?
- 13) Verse 6a starts with "Because you are sons." Notice the pronoun changes to "you". Who is the group Paul is calling sons in vs 6?
- 14) What has God sent forth in our hearts and how do we now relate to God? Look at other verses where we see Abba Father. Do you see God as your "Abba Father"?
- 15) Looking at verse 7, what is the result? If you have trusted in Christ, Abraham's seed, who brings the promise blessing (salvation from our sins), then who are we? Do you realize who you are? Are you living as a slave, like these Galatians, or are you living as a son and an heir?

Think about it. Jesus Christ had purchased us (In context, Paul and the Jews, who believe) out of the bondage of Law keeping, but now you (Galatians) want to place yourself under the very bondage that Christ set us free from. You, Galatians, are making yourself a slave because you want to put yourself under Law. Galatians, why then are you making yourself a slave again when you are a son? You are not a slave, you are sons of God.