

Sermon #8: Galatians 3:19-4:7

15 March 2026

BREAKING THE ICE

What are the differences between how a servant behaves in a house and how a son or daughter behave in their own home?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage: Galatians 3:19-4:7

1. According to verse 19, why was the Law added, and how long was it intended to last?
2. Look at verses 21-22.
 - a. If the law could not impart life (vs. 21), what benefits did the Jews receive from following it? Consider Deuteronomy 8:1 in your answer.
 - b. What does the Scripture declare about the whole world? According to these verses, what are we “locked up,” “a prisoner of,” “confined,” under?
 - c. Based on the verses, can we fully live up to God’s standards for righteousness on our own?
3. Paul tells the Galatians that before Christ, “we were held in custody under the Law”. Who is “we” Paul is referring to? In what way did being “held in custody” serve to protect Israel?
4. Read verse 24 and the Commentary below (from BibleRef) :

“Paul compares the law to a “pedagogue.” In Greek families, a pedagogue was a slave entrusted with protecting and caring for the children from the age of 6 until late adolescence. The pedagogue was not exactly the same as a “teacher,” but he did discipline the children. He taught them morals and corrected them when they misbehaved. When the kids got old enough, though, they left the pedagogue behind. This word is translated into English as “guardian” or “tutor.”

How does the role of the Law before Christ compare to the role of a pedagogue?
5. How does this understanding help explain verse 25 which says: “Now that faith has come, we are no longer under a pedagogue?”
6. In verses 26-29 Paul shifts from speaking about Israel as a nation to addressing the individual believers in Galatia. According to these verses, who is considered a child of God?
 - a. What social barriers does Paul say are broken down in verse 28?
 - b. What is our status or identity in Christ Jesus according to these verses?
7. In Galatians 4:1-3, what is Paul’s point in comparing the Law to that of an heir who is a child?
8. According to 4:5-7, what benefits do believers receive through adoption into sonship?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Read Romans 3:21-24. This passage beautifully reveals that even though the Law revealed God’s righteousness (and our sinfulness) it did not make that righteousness accessible to us because we could not keep it. **HOWEVER**, Jesus revealed God’s righteousness **AND** made it available to us by faith. He took our sin when He was judged on our behalf on the Cross and He offers us His perfect righteousness from keeping God’s Law perfectly. Praise be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

- How does this truth about Jesus both free you from sins' power and motivate you to live in Christ’s righteousness for His glory and the sake of others?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. Do you relate to God more as your guardian (pedagogue) or as your Father? Explain.
2. Think about your adoption to sonship. Do you experience the Spirit crying “Abba! Father!” in your prayer life? How can you cultivate this closeness?
3. We are “all one in Christ Jesus.” How can our group better reflect this unity across racial, social, and/or economic lines?
4. Christ lived perfectly as a human on our behalf so He could offer Himself for our sake. How is God calling you to live in His righteousness for the sake of others who don’t deserve it?

PRAYING FOR GOD’S POWER

“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” - 1 John 5:14-15 When we pray according to God’s will, it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these truths in our own strength, it becomes legalistic obedience. But when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational and glorifies Him.

- Share one specific application from today’s lesson you would like to see transformed in your life. Take time to pray that God would transform you as you trust Him in this area.