

GALATIANS

Power of Unity: Abiding in the Church

“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”

– Galatians 5:6



What about the BIBLE?

- The purpose of revelation is nothing less than the **transformation of human** lives.
- Your contact with the Bible **should be changing you**. If it isn't, then something is drastically wrong with the way you are going about it
- This is a living book with a **living message** which, when it touches human life, begins to transform it and make it over.
- Now, it **takes the entire book** to do the whole job, -- in order that we might see what it has to say and how it says it.

Journey Through Galatians

Overview March 26

Week 1: Galatians 1 - The Good News (April 16)

Week 2: Galatians 2 – Justification (April 23)

Week 3: Galatians 3 – Freedom (April 30)

Week 4: Galatians 4 – Adoption (May 14)

Week 5: Galatians 5 – Transformation (May 21)

Week 6: Galatians 6 – New Creation (May 28)

Two weeks ago...

Session Goal:

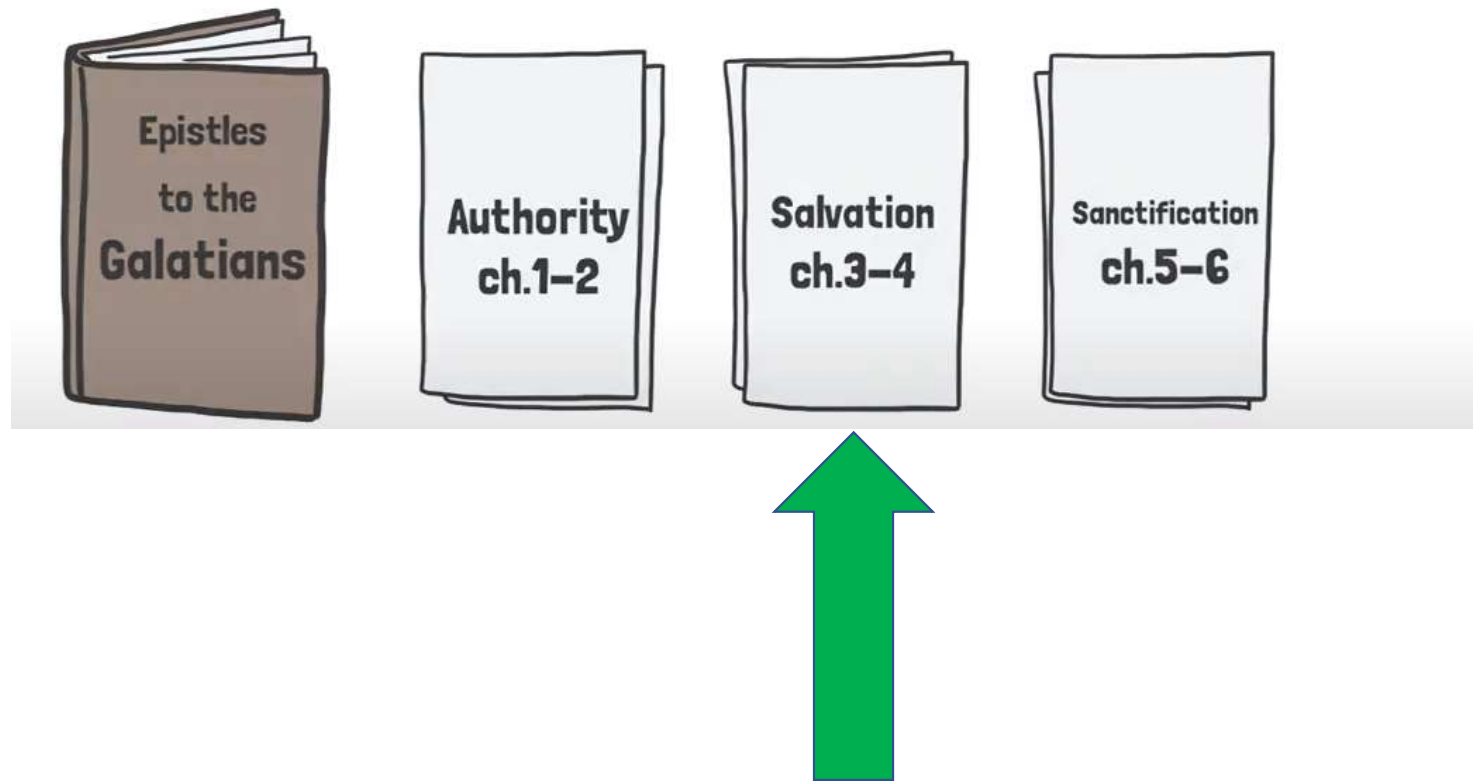
- When we are justified, the way we act with people and God changes.

This Week...

Objective

- The focus of next week's study is to read about God's adoption of us through the justification and freedom found in relationship with Christ.
- We will look at a few different aspects of adoption and talk about what those mean for the community of God's people.

This week...



Let's get started...

1. Have you ever felt like an outsider? How did that experience feel?
2. Have you ever been exclusive? (Think social clubs/groups, friendships, etc.)



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Galatians 3:23-4:7

Children of God

23 Before the coming of this faith,[a] we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. 24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

4 What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. 2 The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. 3 So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces[b] of the world. 4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.[c] 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba,[d] Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Context - Before studying the passage, it is important to understand the context of Galatians.

- Paul wrote this letter to the Galatians to address **false teachings** that had infiltrated the church, specifically the idea that salvation comes through obeying the law instead of faith in Jesus Christ.

Key Questions

- What is the **role** of the law?
- How is **faith** in Jesus Christ related to the law?
- How does the promise of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ **compare** to the law?
- What does it mean to be a **son** of God?

LET'S BREAK INTO THREE SECTIONS...

1. Galatians 3:23-25: The Law as a Guardian
2. Galatians 3:26-29: Sons of God through Faith in Christ
3. Galatians 4:1-7: Heirs through Adoption

Galatians 3:23-25

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- In, Paul describes the role of the law as a guardian.
- He says that the law was given to us as a temporary measure until the coming of Christ
- To keep us in check and guide us until we were ready to receive the promise of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:23-25

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Galatians 3:26-29

26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- Paul emphasizes that our status as children of God comes through faith in Christ
- This passage shows that salvation is not limited to a particular group of people
- Paul argues that our status as children of God is not based on external factors such as race or social status

Galatians 4:1-7: Heirs through Adoption

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- We were under the authority of the law until the time of Christ.
- Through faith in Christ, we have become sons of God and are no longer under the authority of the law.
- Through faith in Christ, we have received the full rights of a son and have become heirs of God.

Questions

Team Iconium

- How does Galatians 3:26-29 describe unity among believers?

Team Derby

- What is the significance of being an heir through adoption in Galatians 4:1-7?

Team Lystra

- Discuss what Galatians 4:4 means by "the fullness of time"?

Team Antioch

- Discuss what Galatians 4:6-7 tell us about our relationship with God as adopted children?

How does Galatians 3:26-29 describe unity among believers?

- Paul describes the unity among believers by emphasizing that **our identity in Christ transcends** any social or cultural distinctions.
- The passage emphasizes that **all believers are children of God** through faith in Christ. Baptism into Christ represents the moment when believers put on Christ and become united with Him.
- Paul also emphasizes that being a part of this unity in Christ means being an **heir according to promise**, which means that all believers share in the inheritance promised to Abraham. This inheritance is not based on ethnicity, social status, or any other worldly factors but on faith in Christ.
- In summary, describes the unity among believers by emphasizing that **our identity** in Christ supersedes any cultural or social distinctions. Through faith in Christ, we become one with Him, and our unity is not based on any worldly factors but on our shared identity as children of God and heirs according to promise.

What is the significance of being an heir through adoption in Galatians 4:1-7?

- Describes the significance of being an heir through adoption in the context of the **relationship** between believers and God.
- The significance of being an heir through adoption is that it represents a **new relationship** with God.
- Being an heir through adoption means that we have a **new identity**.
- The significance of being an heir through adoption also includes a **sense of security and belonging**.
- In summary, represents a new relationship with God, a new identity, and a sense of security and belonging.

Discuss what Galatians 4:4 means by "the fullness of time"?

- The phrase "the fullness of time" refers to a **specific moment in history** when God chose to send His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world.
- The phrase suggests that God had a **specific plan and timing** for the coming of Jesus.
- The timing was significant for several reasons.
 - First, the **world was at a crossroads**, both politically and culturally.
 - Second, the **religious climate was ripe** for the coming of the Messiah.
 - Third, the fullness of time also refers to the fact that **Jesus came at the perfect time in terms of His own ministry.**
- In summary, the phrase "the fullness of time" in Galatians 4:4 refers to the specific moment in history when God sent His Son into the world. It suggests that God had a specific plan and timing for the coming of Jesus, and that His arrival was significant in terms of the political, cultural, and religious climate of the time.

Discuss what Galatians 4:6-7 tell us about our relationship with God as adopted children?

This passage highlights the unique relationship that believers have with God as adopted children. Here are some key insights that can be drawn from this passage:

1. We have a personal relationship with God
2. We have been set free from slavery to sin
3. We have an inheritance
4. Our relationship with God is based on grace

Scripture References:

- *Ephesians 1:5*
- *Romans 8:15*
- *Galatians 4:4-5*
- *1 John 3:1-2*
- *Galatians 3:26: "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith."*
- *John 1:12-13*
- *1 Peter 1:3-4*

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