

GALATIANS 3:26-4:7

SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER



BIBLE

GALATIANS 3:26-4:7

Ask God for help for yourself and the church as we read His word.
Read Galatians 3:26-4:7

LISTEN

SERMON BY MARTYN

[Click here to listen to a sermon on this passage.](#)

REFLECTION

QUESTIONS AND NOTES

- Why do many today see Christianity as narrow and oppressive?
- One well known evangelical theologian (D.A. Carson) says: "It has always been that as human beings pursue their own vision of freedom they find out that in fact they are enslaved."
 - Do we agree?
 - How do we see this in our society today?
- Paul identifies two groups of human beings as being in slavery (Gal 1-7).
 - In what way were the Jews enslaved?
 - In what way are gentiles enslaved?
- For what reason does Paul describe the Jews before Jesus as being under 'elemental spiritual forces' (Gal 4:3).
 - Wasn't the law a good thing given by God?
 - Is it true to say that even faithful Jews before Christ were enslaved?
- How are people set free (Gal 3:25)?
 - Are Jews and gentiles set free in the same way?

- What does it mean to be united to Christ ('in' Christ, 3:26)?
 - What does baptism have to do with it (3:27)?
 - Does this thought (being united to Christ) make a difference in your life? If yes, how?
- What does Paul mean when he says the Galatians have clothed themselves with Christ (3:27)?
- Does Paul think there are no differences between those mentioned in 3:28?
 - In what way are there no distinctions?
 - In what way does the Bible make some distinctions (e.g. between men and women)?
- Paul says if you belong to Christ you are 'heirs according to the promise' (3:29). That is, you are children of God who have come of age and are heirs.
 - What is the promise?
 - What is the inheritance of the heirs?
 - When do we get our inheritance?
- How does Paul point out that Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for all mankind (4:4)?
- Why does the latest NIV translation retain the reference to 'Sonship' (4:5) even when it tries to avoid gender specific terms usually? [Hint: read the footnotes!]
- What does Paul mean when he says Christians are sons and daughters of God?
 - Do you agree that adoption to sonship' can be described as the 'crowning glory of the gospel'? If so why?
 - What specifically does the privilege of 'adoption' make you think about?
- How do we, and to what extent can we, enjoy being children of God in our lives here on earth (4:6)?

PRAYER

RESPOND TO GOD IN PRAISE AND PLEADING

Use the Lord's Prayer to help you structure your prayers. Pray in response to the passage, for yourself, the church and others