

JUNE 7, 2021

GALATIANS 4: GOD'S Providence or Man's Efforts?

Introductory Statement: As in other locations where the Gospel of Jesus Christ had been preached and received by non-Jewish individuals, Galatia would not be spared. Certain groups of Jews (Judaizers) arrived to persuade these converts to believe that more than a simple Faith in Jesus Christ was required from them, in order to obtain salvation. In this instance circumcision was emphasized, along with adherence to Judaism's laws and rituals. Some of these Gentile believers were being deceived and wandering from the simplicity of the Gospel, and the Apostle Paul intervenes to remind them of the Truth of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

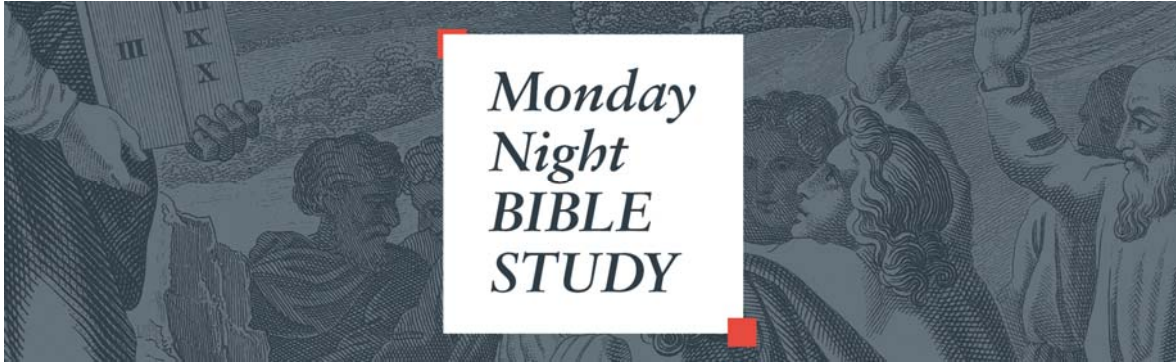
Summary Points:

- In Jesus Christ, you were once slaves, but now you're Sons/Daughters
- What comes with the inheritance for Believers?
- Can I earn salvation (by being or doing good)?
- What is my role in salvation?

Objectives: At the end of this session one should be able to understand and provide answers to questions surrounding the summary points noted above

GALATIANS 4: 1-3

1. In Christ, who is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, and as Abraham's Sons/Daughters, there is an inheritance of that promise(s). An Inheritance must be known.
 - a. Eternal Life *John 3:16*
 - b. Christ's Glory *Romans 8:17*
 - c. Kingdom of God *Matthew 25:34*
 - d. Access to and Authorized Use of the Name of Jesus *Philippians 2:9-11 John 16:23*
 - e. An Eternal Inheritance *1 Peter 1:3-4, Hebrews 1:2; 9:15, Revelation 21:7*



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2. Until the parent's set time (of maturity), a son's/daughter's inheritance is managed by others. They have no access to the inheritance although everything belongs to him/her.
3. Before Christ, we were like children, without access to the promises of God, slaves to the basic spiritual powers of this world

GALATIANS 4:4-7

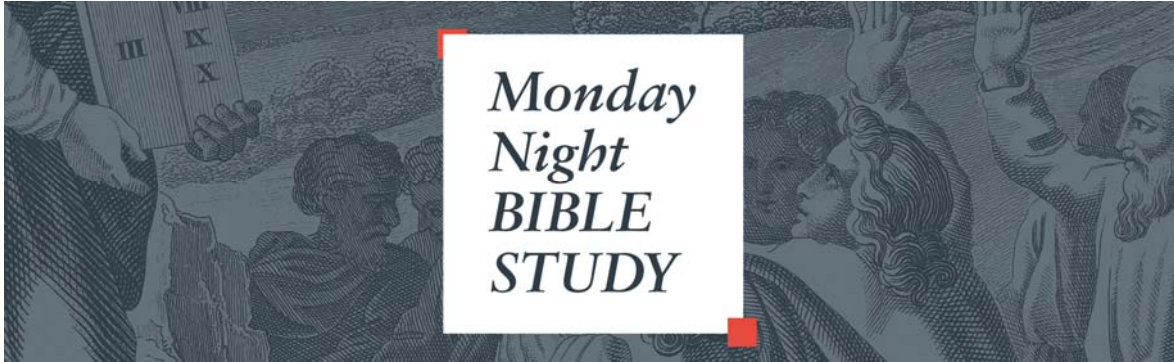
1. Jesus came to redeem us from slavery to children
2. The Father has adopted us as His very own children
3. The Holy Spirit enters our hearts as a guarantee of the future promises *Ephesians 1:14*
4. We are no longer slaves, but children of God...His Heirs

GALATIANS 4:8-12

1. You have been redeemed from slavery to the gods of this world, why return?
2. It's not so much that you know God; rather, He knows you
3. You can't earn God's favor. This is about Grace through Faith *Ephesians 2:8-9*
4. Live in Freedom *Colossians 2:6*

GALATIANS 4:13-20

1. What happened to your joy and gratitude? What changed your love?
2. Beware of those who come to disconnect you from truth



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- a. Look beyond the actions and into the motivations and intentions
 - b. Good deeds should be done all of the time, not to gain your attention as a distraction
3. My prayer and goal is for Christ to be fully developed in you

GALATIANS 4:21-31

1. Are you attempting to achieve salvation by your own efforts or are you receiving Jesus Christ's finished work of salvation?
 - a. Hagar vs Sarah
 - i. Promise Made to Abraham *Genesis 15:1-6*
 - ii. Sarah & Abraham attempt to make God's promises happen her way *Genesis 16:1-6*
 - iii. God reaffirms His covenant promise to Abraham through Sarah *Genesis 17:1-6, 15-22*
 - iv. God fulfills His promise
 - b. Hagar exemplifies the law – an attempt to achieve being right with God through man's own efforts (Law)...earthly Jerusalem in bondage to law (influenced by Judaism)...Bondage
 - c. Sarah represents God's intervention to fulfill righteousness...heavenly Jerusalem...Freedom
 - d. There are those who are attempting to sabotage your relationship with God based upon Faith in Jesus Christ, like Ishamel antagonized Isaac. Get rid of them and live in freedom. *Genesis 21:8-13*



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HOMEWORK

- I. Research the scriptures that share about your inheritance in Christ. Become familiar with and meditate upon these regularly.

- II. Do you fully rely upon the work of Jesus Christ as your sole efforts of receiving salvation? Do you find yourself trying to do works in order get “right” with God, the Father? Read passages again that declare what Jesus’ birth, life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension did to bring justification with Father God to your life.

- III. Scripture Memory:
 - a. Romans 3:23
 - b. Romans 6:23
 - c. John 3:16-17

- IV. What is one thing that you will take away from this study that you can share with someone who might ask you about Galatians 4?