ONCE A SLAVE, BUT NOW A SON

Galatians 4:1-31

Key Verse 4:7 “So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.”

1. How did Paul describe people under the law in the Jewish context? (3:23, 25) What new analogy does he use to help the Galatians understand this in their context? (1-2) In what sense were we slaves to basic principles of the world? (3)

2. What did Jesus do to help us receive the full rights of sons? (4-5) What amazing thing happens to us when we are adopted by God? (6)

3. How does the fact that we can call God “Abba, Father!” reflect a change in the way God views us, and in the way we relate to him? (6; Romans 8:15-16) How is our identity changed (7)?

4. How were the Galatians returning to their previous slavery and what were the consequences? (8-11; 15-16) What was Paul’s earnest plea? (12)

5. In Paul’s allegory, what do Hagar and Sarah stand for? (21-26) What does “the Jerusalem that is above” refer to? (26; cf. Hebrews 12:22-24)

6. How did Paul compare the birth of Isaac to that of Christians (28)? How did he compare Ishmael’s persecution of Isaac to the false teachers’ opposition and what did Paul imply the Galatians to do (29-30)?