

The Birthright of Freedom Galatians 4:8-20

I. Reared in Bondage - 4:8

1. Jews were in bondage to the law - 4:3
Paul uses "we" to speak of himself as a Jew
Bondage was the restrictions of immaturity
2. Gentiles were in bondage in paganism - 8
Gentile bondage was that of spiritual slavery
They served false gods, idols
They were in bondage to Satan & spiritism
Did not know the true and Living God
In bondage to ignorance and fear
Followed pagan rites and made sacrifices

II. Release From Bondage - 4:9

1. In Christ, there is release from bondage
Christ died to free from bondage of sin & Satan
2. No longer in ignorance, now know God
Have a personal relationship with God
Know Him as a gracious and loving Father
3. Even greater, God knows them
In Christ we are in a relationship with God
God accepts us as members of His family
Placed us in the position of being adult sons

III. Return to Bondage 4:9-12

1. Why enter into another bondage? - 9
Free from paganism why submit to legalism
From spiritual ignorance to spiritual immaturity
Both have rituals, regulations to observe
Weak, powerless to produce righteousness
Beggarly, leave us spiritually bankrupt
2. Rituals, regulations do not satisfy God - 10
Do not remove sin or produce righteousness
Forms, shadows point to Christ - Col.2:16-17
Externals not internal transformation
Jesus revealed what God wants - Jn.4:21-24
Religious observances are externals
Sabbaths and holy days
New moons and monthly feasts
Times, seasonal events, as Passover etc.
Years are Sabbatical years, Year of Jubilee
Were intended to point to the reality in Christ
3. Paul concerned about spiritual status - 11
Did they really understand Gospel of Grace
Has his ministry to them been unproductive
4. Wanted to see them free in Christ - 12
Wanted them to enjoy the freedom he had
Lived with them as Gentile to win them to Christ
They were now in danger of turning to legalism

IV. Remember First Love - 4:12-16

1. Received Paul with godly love – 12-14
They had done no wrong to Paul - 12
Did not despise his weakness – 13-14

Physical limitations

Received his message, spiritual response

Saw him as God's messenger

As angel of God even as Jesus Christ

2. Willing to sacrifice showed love - 15
Would give him their eyes if possible
Evidence of fruit of the Spirit in them - 5:22
Godly love was demonstrated toward Paul
3. Rejection now is hard to understand - 16
Now an enemy because he spoke truth

V. Reassuring of His Love - 4:17-20

1. Legalism isn't in your best interest – 17-18
Legalist's zeal is misguided
They want followers, make you converts
True zeal helps you stand in the truth
Paul's desire, for them to stand in truth
Loving parent wants child to be mature
2. Paul's love like a travailing mother – 19-20
Willing to suffer birth pangs again for them
See them conformed to the image of Christ
Desires a face to face meeting to help them