

## **CHRIST'S MISSION: ADOPTION OF SONS**

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Galatians 4:1-12a

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### **INTRODUCTION: A TRIAL BASIS**

Some things in life come on a trial basis.

Sadly, the Christians in Galatia viewed salvation as being on a trial basis.

Paul thought this belief so dangerous that he called it a different gospel.

#### **Galatians 3:3**

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Galatians 2:20, 21; 3:11-14

The Law of God reflects the beauty and glory of God.

Consequently, it magnifies our sin. (Galatians 3:19; Romans 7)

The purpose of Christ was to set us free from sin. That comes by faith and not by Old Testament rituals. (Galatians 3:29)

Paul's argument in Galatians is that far from being slaves to sin, out of prison on parole, if you belong to Christ, you are sons of Abraham by faith and heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:29)

Paul emphasizes this point using an illustration from Roman family life and the truth of the virgin birth.

## I. JESUS WAS BORN TO REDEEM SLAVES, VV. 1-7

### A. ROMAN RITE OF PASSAGE, VV. 1-3

#### 1. We Are Sons Who Became Slaves

The problem we have is that humans are slaves to sin and can never become the children of God we were meant to be simply by trying harder. We forfeited our place as sons of God.

#### 2. Jesus is the Natural Son and Heir

### B. JESUC WAS BORN TO REDEEM THOSE UNDER THE LAW, VV. 4-7

#### 1. Jesus Was Born Of A Woman, v. 4a

##### **John 1:1**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

##### **John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

In the virgin birth, the infinite and eternal Son of God became a frail and finite human. As a man He suffered weariness, hunger, and pain. He was the Son of God, fully God, who was born of a woman and who lived as a human.

#### 2. Jesus Was Born Under The Law, v. 4b

(Hebrews 5:8)

**Hebrews 4:15**

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

3. That He Might Redeem Those Under the Law, v. 5a

4. That We Might Receive Adoption As Sons, v. 5b

a. Sons Have God's Spirit, v. 6

b. Sons Are Not Slaves, Rather Heirs, v. 7

**II. HOW CAN YOU RETURN TO SLAVERY? VV. 8-12**

A. YOU CAME TO BE KNOWN BY GOD

B. BECOME AS I AM (I BECAME AS YOU ARE)

Paul understood full well the appeal of Old Testament ritual.

Philippians 3:4-11

Galatians 1:13-24

## **CONCLUSION: LIVE AS SONS**

The virgin birth leads to the cross. The cross and the empty tomb are where sinners find salvation by faith alone in Christ alone, but the implications of the Gospel are not merely for the moment of salvation. The truth of the Gospel affects how we live as a Christian until Christ returns or calls me home.

The miracle of the virgin birth is that it made it possible for us to be adopted as sons and live no longer as slaves.

### **Galatians 5:1**

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

? How do we apply this lesson to our lives?

To rely on rituals and human effort shows we don't understand the Gospel, we aren't sons yet. To practice sin as a habit also proves that we aren't sons.

We don't return to slavery of sin and rules to mitigate guilt rather we walk by the spirit.

### **Galatians 5:16, 25**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh...If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.