

Is God Your Father?

Scripture: Galatians 4:1-18
(06-14-26 Pastor Tony Hao)

Here in Galatians is a powerful passage where Paul contrasts the spiritual immaturity of living under the law with the freedom and privileges of sonship in Christ. It highlights that believers are no longer slaves, but adopted heirs with full access to God as "Abba, Father".

Paul uses the Greco-Roman cultural practice of guardianship (4:1-3). An heir, though possessing everything, is subject to guardians, managers. "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth Jesus to pay the ransom (redeem) so that we could be adopted as full adult sons (4:4-7). The proof of this adoption is the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Paul expresses grief that the Galatians are turning back to weak and miserable principles (4:8-11). Having been set free from idolatry and the curse of the law, they are choosing to enslave themselves to religious rituals. Paul reminds them of their past love and care for him when he first preached the gospel to them (4:12-18). He warns them against false teachers who want to alienate them from the truth of the gospel.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What are some differences between being a servant and being a son? How does this apply to the Christian life?
2. Is there anything you would do differently if you more fully saw yourself as God's adult son and heir? If so, what?
3. What does adoption mean for a Christian? What does "redemption" mean? How is it important to you?
4. How does legalism cause Christians to lose the "enjoyment" of their salvation?