

Abba

*Our Glorious
Freedom*

Galatians 4:1-7

FATHER

Freedom

- On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, as the nation approached its third year of bloody civil war. The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

Freedom

- Hamp Santee, who had been enslaved in Mississippi, “After surrender, I can remember the negroes were so happy. They just rang bells, blowed horns and shouted like they were crazy. Then they brought a brand new rope and cut it up into little pieces and they gave everyone a little piece. And whenever they look at the rope, they should remember that they were free from bondage.”

Freedom

- Harriet Tubman, “I was free, but there was no one to welcome me to the land of freedom. I was a stranger in a strange land.”
- Lonnie G. Bunch wrote, “It is difficult to imagine the enormity of this change for those who suffered generations in bondage. With the joy of emancipation came a dizzying array of concerns and questions.

Freedom

- Lonnie G. Bunch wrote, “What did freedom mean for the nearly 4 million African Americans who were enslaved when the war began? How would the freedmen and freedwomen find economic stability? Should they stay on the land they knew or seek the possibilities of new places? How would white Southerners react to their freedom? And would the nation embrace or ignore them now that the war was over?”

Freedom

- **Galatians 5:1 NIV**, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery (*bondage*).”
- **John 8:36 NIV**, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”
 - **AMP**, “So if the Son makes you free, then you are unquestionably free.”

Freedom

- Freed in Christ Jesus yes, but what does that mean?
- How am I supposed to live now?
- Where will I be accepted now?
- Who am I now?

Scriptures

- **Galatians 4:1-7 NLT**, “1 Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had. 2 They have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set. 3 And that’s the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles (*powers*) of this world.

Scriptures

- **Galatians 4:1-7 NLT**, “4 But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. 6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” 7 Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.”

Last Week

- **Galatians 3:26-29 NLT** “26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. 28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.”

Last Week

- Heirs to the promise God made Abraham
- God tell us in the Old Testament, “There is a day coming when our relationship with Him will be through our personal faith in our heart and not the earnings of our lives.”
 - There is a day coming when we will be able to stand before God with confident justification and be looked upon by Him as righteous and acceptable

Last Week

- God tell us in the Old Testament
 - There is a day coming when sin will no longer rule your lives, but freedom and power provided by God
 - There is a day coming when you will have a place in His Heavenly/Eternal Home remade into the very good lost in the Garden of Eden
- That day was shouted into being when Jesus Christ on the cross cried out **“It is finished.** With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (John 8:30)

Last Week

- Paul tells us in **Galatians 3:6 NIV**, “Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”
- Just like Abraham we as born-again children of God have been counted as righteous by believing and accepting Jesus, **Romans 5:1 NIV**, “We have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- We have been set free, declared free by the Son of God

Last Week

- Both Jews and Gentiles struggled with salvation by faith alone
 - To Jews, the way to God was through their obedience to the Law
 - To Gentiles, the way to their gods was through their social and belief system
- Paul is going to tell of the radical change that has or will happened when salvation is invited into our lives

Paul first answers the question, “Where did God find us?”

- In **Luke 19:10 NIV** Jesus said, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save (*rescue*) the lost.”
- So, the question is, “Where did He find us?”
- Paul answers that question in **verse 3**, “We were in slavery (*bondage*) under the elemental spiritual forces of the world.”

Paul first answers the question, “Where did God find us?”

- Paul uses a Greek word meaning “basic principles of the world”
- **Colossians 2:8 NIV**, “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces (*basic principles the world operates under*) of this world rather than on Christ.”

Paul first answers the question, “Where did God find us?”

- The basic ABCs of life as defined by the world system at the time
- For Jews it was the Law of Moses
- But the religious leaders added their own interpretations of the commands in the Law making it burdensome

Paul first answers the question, “Where did God find us?”

- The Law could never take away sin but was a mirror of the sinfulness in our lives and the need for a Redeemer
- **Galatians 3:10 NIV**, “For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”

Paul first answers the question, “Where did God find us?”

- **John 1:29 NIV**, “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away *(or carries away)* the sin of the world!”
- Paul uses the word slavery or in bondage to these forces
- You were chained to these forces, and they dictated how you should live, think and breath
- The pressure was so great to conform resistance was useless

Paul first answers the question, “Where did God find us?”

- You were as Jesus said, “Lost and living in darkness”
 - **Matthew 4:16 NIV**, Jesus said, “The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

Paul then answers the question, “What did God do to seek and save the lost?”

- Did God just change His mind about sin and results?
 - Did He wave a magic wand over your sin debt and make it disappear?
 - Did He just choose to ignore it and hope it remedies itself?

Paul then answers the question, “What did God do to seek and save the lost?”

- **Verse 4** answers that question, “4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.”
- God sent His Son carries the idea of a King’s trusted son being dispatched to take care of something vitally important for the King

Paul then answers the question, “What did God do to seek and save the lost?”

- It was so important a servant would never be sent but one who knew the King’s mind and would ensure it was done completely to his satisfaction
- God’s Son was to be identified fully with physical humanity – “born of a woman”
- God’s Son was to be identified with sinful humanity – “born under the law”

Paul then answers the question, “What did God do to seek and save the lost?”

- Paul tells us by in **verse 5** why the Son was sent – “to redeem (*seek and save*) those under the law”
- It is the Law of Moses that all mankind is under, and it did not have the complete answer to sin
- **Ezekiel 18:20 NKJV**, “The soul who sins shall die.”

Paul then answers the question, “What did God do to seek and save the lost?”

- Redeemed - the deliverance of people or things that have been sold for debt
- **Leviticus 25:25 NIV**, “If one of your fellow Israelites becomes poor and sells some of their property (*or themselves or family member*), their nearest relative is to come and redeem what they have sold.”
 - **MSG**, “If one of your brothers becomes poor and has to sell any of his land, his nearest relative is to come and buy back what his brother sold.”

Paul then answers the question, “What did God do to seek and save the lost?”

- Why or what is the purpose of this redemption?
 - **AMP**, “that we [who believe] might be adopted as sons [as God’s children with all rights as fully grown members of a family].”
 - So, we, as full heirs, can claim all the rights and privileges given to us because of or through our salvation

Our sure redemption comes with unimaginable privileges

- **Verses 6-7**, “6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.”

Our sure redemption comes with unimaginable privileges

- God did another “sent” – His Holy Spirit into our lives
 - The same Spirit that anointed Jesus at His baptism
 - The same Spirit that empowered Jesus in His flesh
 - The same Spirit that led and guided Jesus in His flesh
 - That same Spirit now lives within our hearts and minds
 - It is the Holy Spirit that allows us to love and cherish our Heavenly Father

Our sure redemption comes with unimaginable privileges

- Notice the close intimate proclamation of “Abba, Father”
 - Abba - An Aramaic word used by small children when informally addressing their fathers

Our sure redemption comes with unimaginable privileges

- We are now a joint heir of all Jesus will inherit from the Father
 - Heir - Those who receive their allotted possession by right of sonship
 - We have full rights to receive His inheritance as His beneficiaries
 - “an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade . . . kept in heaven” (1 Peter 1:4)

This truth should lead our thinking as we wander through this life

- As this sinful life throws all it can at us, we remember, “I am a loved child of God.”
- As we struggle with events that come at us and threaten to overwhelm us, we remember, “I am a loved child of God.”
- When “death-dew lies cold upon our brow”, we remember, “I am a loved child of God.”

This truth should lead our thinking as we wander through this life

- Randy, “How can I be a part of this great work?”
- Since we cannot escape our own sinfulness, the only answer is allowing Jesus to save you

This truth should lead our thinking as we wander through this life

- **John 1:12-13 NIV**, “12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”
 - It is a simple formula: Believe + Receive = Become

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