

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were
under the law. Galatians 4:4

I. EMPTINESS—SPIRITUAL SLAVERY

- Although God offered us his grace in eternity past, until Christ is revealed in us we are no better than slaves. The law has condemned us and kept us subjected to its governing power (Gal. 3:21-22; 2 Tim. 1:8-10).
- As children of Adam, we were enslaved to this world and the sin that entangles it. That sin brings with it death, and it impacts all of us (Rom. 3:23; 6:20-23).
- Our fallen world awaited a day set by the Father. His timing was perfect (Eccl. 3:1-8; Eph. 1:3-10).

II. FULLNESS—SPIRITUAL FREEDOM

- In the fullness of time, God sent forth his Son. The first Adam failed, the second Adam would not (Gal. 4:4; 1 Cor. 15:21-26).
- The coming of Christ brings the hope of freedom from sin and death. Not just “emptying” our sin nature, but filling us with the fullness of Christ (Eph. 1:13-14).
- Christians are not simply forgiven sinners, they are sons of God—co-heirs with Jesus (Rom. 8:15-17; Gal. 4:7).

KNOW: The Fall was not the end. What seemed fatal was only the beginning, and God always has an end in mind...always. Adam's fall led to Christ's rise, and a plan of redemption was initiated that would be fulfilled "in the fullness of time." Not a moment too early, not a day too late.

DO: Find spiritual freedom and fullness in Christ.

Suggested Reading:

Basic Christianity by John R.W. Stott
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible by Vaughn Roberts
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

For Children:

The Child's Book on the Fall of Man by Thomas Gallaudet
(Available in the LifePoint Kid's Library)

Next Week's Preaching Text: Genesis 15:1-21

**Questions/Discovery Points for
Life Groups/Families**

Please Read Galatians 4:1-7

1. Why do you think Paul talks about what life was like for a minor child prior to receiving his inheritance in verses 1-2?
2. In what ways were we enslaved to sin when we "were children"?
3. What are "The elementary principles of the world" do you think?
4. What did God do in the fullness of time? Why did he do it?
5. What does it mean to be a son of God?
6. Why is adoption into God's family one of the greatest, if not the greatest, blessings of our salvation?
7. How might we live our lives differently if we believed fully that we are heirs through God?