

Galatians 4: 1-11 God's Wise Unfolding Plan Teague Bible Church 4/28/2024

Intro: God's plan to reach man after the Fall has always been Grace through Faith. God offers man something he did not earn or deserve, and man's response can be to accept the gracious offer (by faith, by believing it) or reject it.

Example: Romans 4:16 " For this reason it is by **faith**, in order that it may be in accordance with **grace**, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the **faith of Abraham**, who is the father of us all."

The Law has a purpose; but it cannot give a new heart and the power to live a completely different life in Christ.

Review: What was the Law's purpose? Galatians 3:19 It regulated abuses./ 3:22 It condemned everybody, because no one has been able to keep it. This brings the person to the breaking point and causes them to seek to believe what God was offering in Jesus Christ./ 3:23 The Law keep us in line by fear of punishment./ 3:24 The Law is a tutor to lead us to see our need of a Savior./3:25 Now that Christ has done His work to save us, **we are no longer under a tutor.**

Let us read our test today: Galatians 4: 1-11 *****

Note how Paul develops key words: "heir" / "child" / "slave" / "children" / "bondage" / "under the Law" / "sons"

4:3 The elemental things/ The example of a child

4:4 The fullness of time came

Question: What made it such a perfect time for Christ to come? *****

- 1. Pax Romana-** 207 years of stability. The longest period of peace in the history of the world. Paul's freedom to travel, in relative safety, as a Romans citizen.
- 2. Roman roads-** 250,000 miles of road. 50,000 miles of paved road. This helped expand the empire for army, trade, and communication.
- 3. One government system-** It went from a Republic to an Empire. As an empire it finally became over-governed. In the early days there was more freedom for individuals.
- 4. One Language-** Koine Greek, the language of the New Testament. The Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, was the bible read by most Jews in Christ' time.
- 5. Bankrupt ideas of conflicting multi-deities and capricious and sinful behavior of imagined Greek and Roman gods.** Their honest philosophers were sick of it all!

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4:4 Born of a woman- The true humanity of Christ is important, as is His true deity.

Not a phantom who just looked like a man. Not a spirit who took up residence in an ordinary man at baptism then departed at the cross. Not ½ man and ½ God. He is fully God and fully man bound in one person forever.

The Nicene Creed – 325 A.D. –

4:4-5 Example: The movie the Matrix. You had to go inside the Matrix to alter it and overcome the problem. You had to take action “inside” the Matrix to rescue people helplessly stuck inside it.

4:6-7 Abba! Father! (Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15) A real desire for intimacy with the Father! Only the Spirit of God can do this inside a person. No set of rules can get you there! This is a supernatural act that only the born-again can know. And it is all possible by just believing Christ did all he did was for your salvation, by His grace.

4:8-11 J.B. Phillips- “Resident Policeman” Conscience.