

BLACK

WHITE

*Study of Galatians*

*GROUP/FAMILY*

# Session 2

- Watch the sermon “So, You’re a Recovering Legalist” on The Redemption Church YouTube Channel.
- Feed your soul daily with the subsequent text through Devotions 1483-1488 (on [YouTube/podcast](#)) and share them with the one you are discipling.
- Apply your life to the Bible alongside your group or family with the honest questions in this lesson.



This Week's Sermon exposit Galatians 5

Devotions 1483-1488 exposit Galatians 4:1-31

For more resources, visit: [jessecampbellministries.com](http://jessecampbellministries.com)

## Context

Galatians 4:1-20 was written into a first-century Greco-Roman world where family structures, inheritance laws, and household management were well understood. In Roman culture, a child—even a rightful heir—possessed no practical freedom until reaching a legally appointed age. Until then, guardians and trustees governed his life, often with strict authority. Paul deliberately drew on this familiar social reality to explain Israel's redemptive position under the Mosaic law. The law functioned as a temporary custodian, restraining and instructing but never granting full inheritance.

The Galatian churches were being pressured by Judaizers—teachers insisting Gentile believers must submit to Jewish law, especially circumcision, to be fully accepted by God. Paul responded pastorally and theologically, arguing that to return to the law after Christ was not spiritual maturity but regression. He reminded them that God's saving action occurred "when the time came to completion" (v. 4), grounding salvation in divine initiative, not human observance. His tone shifted from doctrinal explanation to personal appeal, reflecting both apostolic authority and parental anguish for believers tempted to abandon gospel freedom.

## The Big Idea of the Text

Paul explained that believers had moved from lawful bondage to adopted sonship through Christ, urging the Galatians not to return to slavery.

## Connecting the Session to the Sermon

Galatians 4:1-20 and Galatians 5 share a unified argument: freedom in Christ is incompatible with returning to the law as a means of righteousness. In chapter 4, Paul described believers as adopted sons who had received the Spirit, no longer slaves. In chapter 5, he commanded them to “stand firm” in that freedom and resist the yoke of slavery. Both chapters emphasized identity before behavior—who believers are in Christ determines how they live. Each warned that embracing legalism nullifies grace and distorts the gospel. Together, these chapters showed that Christian freedom is not autonomy but Spirit-empowered sonship that flows from Christ’s redemptive work.



## Biblical Text (CSB) - Galatians 4:1-20

Now I say that as long as the heir is a child, he differs in no way from a slave, though he is the owner of everything. <sup>2</sup> Instead, he is under guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup> In the same way we also, when we were children, were in slavery under the elements of the world. <sup>4</sup> When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then God has made you an heir.

<sup>8</sup> But in the past, since you didn't know God, you were enslaved to things that by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup> But now, since you know God, or rather have become known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elements? Do you want to be enslaved to them all over again? <sup>10</sup> You are observing special days, months, seasons, and years. <sup>11</sup> I am fearful for you, that perhaps my labor for you has been wasted.

<sup>12</sup> I beg you, brothers and sisters: Become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have not wronged me; <sup>13</sup> you know that previously I preached the gospel to you because of a weakness of the flesh. <sup>14</sup> You did not despise or reject me though my physical condition was a trial for you. On the contrary, you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus himself.

<sup>15</sup> Where, then, is your blessing? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup> So then, have I become your enemy because I told you the truth? <sup>17</sup> They court you eagerly, but not for good. They want to exclude you from me, so that you would pursue them. <sup>18</sup> But it is always good to be pursued in a good manner—and not just when I am with you. <sup>19</sup> My children, I am again suffering labor pains for you until Christ is formed in you. <sup>20</sup> I would like to be with you right now and change my tone of voice, because I don't know what to do about you.

## Applying Our Lives to the Text

- How does Paul's illustration of an heir under guardians in verses one through three clarify Israel's experience under the law before Christ came historically speaking?
- In verses four and five, what does the timing of the Son's sending reveal about God's sovereign plan of redemption for humanity under the law?
- How do verses six and seven redefine the believer's identity, inheritance, and prayer life through the Spirit rather than slavery to fear under law systems?
- According to verses eight through eleven, why does returning to former religious practices alarm Paul pastorally and theologically regarding freedom and maturity in Christ alone?
- In verses twelve through sixteen, how does Paul appeal to shared history and personal affection to defend gospel truth against distortion by false teachers there?
- What do verses seventeen through twenty teach about false teachers' motives and the pastoral anguish required to form Christ in believers faithfully over time lovingly?

## The Takeaway: So What Church?

We will reject any confidence in religious performance as a basis for standing with God. We will live daily as adopted sons and daughters, praying with confidence through the Spirit. We will guard our churches from teaching that adds requirements to grace. We will disciple patiently, knowing spiritual formation is costly. This passage prophesies Jesus by declaring that only the true Son could redeem those under the law, fulfill its demands, and bring us into full inheritance as children of God.

## For Parents:

### *SHOW YOUR KIDS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE*

My child, this passage tells us that God had a plan even before Jesus came. People once lived like children who could not yet go outside alone. The rules were there to protect them, but the rules were not the goal. When Jesus came, He did what we could not do. He obeyed God perfectly and paid for our sins. Now, because of Jesus, God does not treat us like servants who are afraid. He brings us close and calls us His children. One day long ago, God promised this would happen, and Jesus made that promise come true.

## FOLLOW ALONG

To cover the subsequent scripture in Daily Devotions 1483-1488, subscribe to Jesse Campbell Ministries on YouTube or on most podcast apps.

## OTHER OFFERINGS

With an abundance of Bible Books to cover just like this study, there's plenty more to explore and learn from JCM, such as:

- The Seven Thunders: The Book of Revelation for Groups
- And Then You Will Know: The Book of Ezekiel for Groups
- Daniel: The Book of Daniel for Groups
- Dear Skeptical Friend: The Gospel of Luke for Groups
- Holy Dissident: Isaiah for Groups
- Letters to My Sons: The Pastoral Epistles
- Into The Fray: I Corinthians
- The God of All Comfort: II Corinthians
- Reason For Hope: 6 Apologetic Sessions for Groups
- The Sacred Acts: Ordinances of the Church
- The Revival Project: A Transformative Study of Nehemiah
- And many more!



Start your free 30-day trial with JCM by visiting us online at: [jessecampbellministries.com](https://jessecampbellministries.com)

## ABOUT JCM

Dr. Jesse Campbell is the founder and head Pastor of The Redemption Church, located on the outskirts of Seattle, WA. Jesse has a strong calling to preach the Bible as it is written. In the midst of a socially and religiously starving culture, his biblical foundation for understanding and preaching the gospel in a strong, clear, and concise manner has earned him a large following in a short amount of time. He's grown the JCM platform quickly, has been featured on national radio shows, and has been a guest speaker across the nation at many churches and large events.

Originally from the Pensacola, FL area, Jesse moved with his family to Nashville and worked at Lifeway Publishing for a while before completing his pastoral education. He was led to launch his own biblically-based church, The Redemption Church, in 2020.

Jesse is married to his wife, Jessi, and they have 4 children. Together they also run a conference for bereaved parents, in memory of their son, Aiden, called Aiden's Hope. When Jesse and Jessi aren't investing their time in JCM or The Redemption Church, you can find them on the bleachers cheering on many baseball and football games or mountain biking and snowboarding in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.