October 26/27, 2013

Study Questions
Sons or Slaves?

A Study in the Epistle of Galatians

Galatians 4:1-20

Opening Discussion

1. What is the difference between approaching God on the basis of promise or on the basis of performance?

2. What effect do these two choices have on our Christian walk?

3. How would you describe your Christian life today? Is it driven more by passion or by religious obligation?

Bible Study

1. Read Galatians 4:1-7. What kept us in bondage as slaves before Christ? What are the elemental things of the world?

2. What did God do to set us free from our bondage? What are the results?

3. Therefore, according to 4:7 who are you and on what basis is this true?

4. Read Galatians 4:8-11. What is Paul saying in 4:8? What is Paul saying about religion in our world today? How does religion enslave?

5. In 4:9 Paul states "but now". What has changed and what is the result?

6. Paul is astonished that the Galatians would go back to slavery after experiencing Christ. Why do we do that? Why do we tend to return to what looks more like cold dead religion than what seems like a supernatural intimate love relationship?

7. Read Galatians 4:12-20. What does legalism do to our relationships with other believers? What do the legalists do according to 4:17? Do you end up serving Christ or the legalists? Have you experienced this?

8. What does Paul mean in 4:19 by the phrase "until Christ is formed in you"?

Application

1. According to this text what specifically has God done for you? What is His offer?

2. Are you currently living your Christian life as a son or a slave? Is your Christian life defined more by an internal passionate love relationship with Christ or an external standard motivated by some sense of obligation to God for saving you?

3. What are some practical ways you can rekindle a passionate love affair with Christ that will drive your Christian walk from the inside out?

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