



Sonship in Christ

Galatians 4:1-20

Argument from Absurdity

- What is the topic of this new argument?
 - Our Sonship through Christ
- What does Paul compare the Jews to before the gospel came?
 - "Minors" or "children"

Free

- Master's child (owned by master until maturity)
- Will eventually inherit
- Under guardians and managers
- Until old enough to inherit when the time comes

Slave

- Owned by master
- Will never inherit
- Under guardians and managers
- Until the time of slavery was fulfilled or choice to stay was made. (Exodus 21:1-11)

Children under the Law

- Jews were "children" under the law of Moses until the gospel was revealed
 - They were 'held in bondage' by the law of Moses
- What are 'elemental things of the world'?
 - Regulations about food and drink, washings and purifications, sacrifices, rules about places, times and actions of all kinds, all pertaining to this world.
(Hebrews 5:12, Colossians 8: 20-22)

- What was the fullness of time and when did it come?
 - The coming of gospel and Christ's sacrifice.
- Why mention Born of a woman, born under the law?
 - Born of a woman = Jesus perfect humanity
 - Born under the law = Jewish lineage of Jesus at a time when the Law of Moses was still in force.

- Jesus redeemed those under the Law, that they might receive the adoption as sons.
 - If the Jews, who had been under the Law were redeemed from it, what can we say of Gentiles, who were never under the Law of Moses?
 - They would not be obliged to that Law now!
- The Judaizers were wrong! The Galatians did not need the Law.

- We are all now sons of God if we accept the adoption.
 - Again, here, whether Jew (Abba = Aramaic) or Gentile (pater = Greek) we all can call God our father.
- We are no longer slaves to the law, but sons and therefore heirs to the promise.
 - We, as adopted sons, receive the same inheritance as God's Son - Jesus Christ - and that inheritance is what God has promised us.
- Who is the 'Spirit of His Son' (John 15:26, 16:14)

Gentile slaves

- If the Jews were slaves to the Law, what were the Gentiles slaves to?
 - Idols - demons (1 Corinthians 10:19-20)
- What is the difference between 'Come to know God' and 'to be known by God'?
 - To have knowledge of = come to know God
 - To be accepted as sons = to be known by God

- What elemental things? Idols again? Or something different?
 - Verse 10!
 - Judaizers binding all Jewish laws and traditions on the Galatians.
- How long had Paul labored with the Galatian churches?
 - Almost 14 years! (Galatians 1:21-2:1)

Paul's final argument

- How would you label Paul's final argument against the Judaizer's teachings?
 - One of sentiment, full of personal and emotional appeal.
- What is meant by "Become as I am"?
 - Cast of the old Pharisaical Judaism, just as Paul had, even though he endorsed it more fully than they.

- How did Paul become like them?
 - He laid aside all of his childhood and adult training as a Jewish Pharisee. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
- Verses 13-15 give us insight into how the Galatians received Paul's initial teaching as he established the churches in the region. What do these verses tell us?
 - The Galatians loved Paul and were willing to do just about anything for him as he evangelized them. They accepted the gospel readily and were zealous for it.

Know your enemy

- Who was the Galatians' enemy?
 - If Paul was an enemy to the Galatians it would only be because they had rejected the truth.
- Who is the subject of verse 17
 - The Judaizers

- What example of this action of the Judaizers have we already studied in previous chapters?
 - Peter, men from James, and Barnabas acting aloof and shunning the Galatians.
- Paul wishes the Galatians would continue to seek who in a commendable manner?
 - Paul! Look how much the Galatians were willing to do for Paul in verse 15. It was not jealousy on Paul's part that he writes, but discouragement that the Galatians folded to the Judaizers so easily.

Change of tone

- What is Paul's tone?
 - Concern, bewilderment, frustration
- If Paul was with them, how would that change?
 - He could see their reaction to his words, Paul would know how to respond in the most convincing way possible to secure their souls for Christ and refute the Judaizers teaching.
 - Paul's wants to make things better - not worse

Next week

➤ Galatians 4:21-31