



Galatians

FREEDOM BY FAITH

The Moment of Freedom

Galatians 3:15—4:7

Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor

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Galatians 3:15 – 4:7 is about bondage and freedom. It will show us the powerful reality of spiritual bondage that is met and overcome with the promise of freedom. And finally, we'll see one of the chief implications of that freedom.

Background: A brief history lesson

- Man rebels against God, incurs God's judgment, and stands in bondage to sin, in desperate need of rescue.
- God promises blessing that will rescue sinners, and God guarantees that promise with a covenant.
- Then, centuries later, God gave His law through Moses, not to nullify the promise, but to make the promise even more necessary.

1. Bondage (3:15-24; 4:1-3)

God's law reveals how our words, thoughts, and actions reflect our heart's rebellion against God. Consequently, God's law judges us as guilty and condemns us. It does not provide freedom. Rather, God's law diagnoses the depth of our sickness, and leaves us in bondage to sin and judgment.

2. Freedom (4:4-7)

The sacrifice of the sinless Savior is the only thing that could fulfill God's promise and provide full release for sinners from the bondage of sin and the condemnation of God's law.

3. Freedom's Fruit (3:25-29)

Believers are not only freed from the bondage of sin and the condemnation of God's law, but we are adopted as God's children and we are brothers and sisters with one another.

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ..." (3:27; cf. to Romans 6:3-4)

The Greek root word for baptize – *bapto* – literally means to immerse, to dip, or to dye. Galatians 3:27 speaks of the actual spiritual union with Christ that water baptism symbolizes.

All of you who, by faith, were fully immersed in Jesus Christ are now clothed with Christ.

Questions to Consider

1. Read Genesis 11:27 – 12:3. Genesis 11:26 is the Bible's first mention of Abram (Abraham). Did he do anything to earn God's favor?
2. What was the nature of God's promise to Abram in Genesis 12:3? Why was this promise so vital for every generation beyond Abram?
3. What is the relationship of the covenant God made with Abram in Genesis 15 to the promise God made to Abram in Genesis 12:3? Why does it matter that Abram was in "a deep sleep" (Genesis 15:12) as God executed His covenant with Abram (15:12-21)?
4. Besides revealing God's holiness and character, what is a chief purpose of God's law? Think about the Ten Commandments. What did they reveal about your heart?
5. Why is it important to understand what is meant by "baptized into Christ" in 3:27? How does Romans 6:3-4 help in understanding Galatians 3:27?
6. If you are trusting in Jesus Christ, you are an heir of the promise of blessing that God made to Abraham. How should that affect your thinking when you face discouragement or temptation? Read Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19. What bearing(s) did God's promise have on Abraham's life?
7. How should union with Christ impact how you interact with believers who are different from you in gender, ethnicity, or social class? Are there areas where you've allowed superficial distinctions to interfere with the oneness in Christ that you have with other believers?