

SERIES: WE ARE FREE (A Study of Galatians) December 2022 – January 2023

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Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Scripture: Galatians 4: 27-31

TITLE: Understanding Your Inheritance

Have you ever received an inheritance? If so, what did you do with it? In my early 20s, I received an inheritance. My grandparents unfortunately had passed away, but they had planned for this day. They had gifted each of the grandkids and the children a certain amount of income. I didn't deserve this inheritance. I didn't earn it. My grandfather and grandmother earned it. But as a mark of grace, they gave it away.

Unfortunately, I didn't manage that gift well. You see, I took that gift and squandered it away. I was a slave to myself and my desires. If we're not careful, we can squander away the gift that God has given us. What do I mean by that? Listen to what Paul writes in Galatians 4 beginning in verse 27- 31 (ESV):

For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband.”

Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

You see as children of God, we are adopted into the King's family. And because God is the King, we have access to an inheritance unlike any other. But we as humans can become prodigal children. We abuse and squander away the gifts that God has given us. That's why Paul says, “So brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. It is the free person who receives the inheritance and not the slave.”

Now let me give you some reassurance. There is nothing we can do as God's children to leave the family. There is nothing we can do to get out of the inheritance. By inheritance, of course, I mean Salvation - eternity with God in Heaven. But if we're not careful, we will diminish the rewards we receive in Heaven, based on how we live.

Friend, God's gift of freedom does not provide us a license to sin. It gives us a license to live freely within the boundaries that God has given us. Jesus said that He came *that we might have life, and life to the fullest.* (John 10:10) That's not a life of restriction. That's not a life of boredom or futility. That is a life that is beneficial to ourselves, and to the community in which we live.

What is it in your life today that may have begun as an innocent interest, but now you have become a slave to it? Is it food? Is it alcohol? Is it sex or pornography? If you are God's child, He has set you free. With His help, and by His grace, we can live as children of the King, not just in eternity, but we can begin today.