# Day 1

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

### We Are God's Heirs

(3)

- <sup>1</sup> What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup> He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father.
  - Q1. In Paul's example, the father dies leaving his estate to his firstborn son. Yet, the son is underage. Therefore, guardians and trustees manage the affairs of the estate. (1) Is the son subject to (or dependent upon) the guardians, trustees, and managers of the estate? (2) Is a slave subject to the guardians, trustees, and managers of the estate? (3) What releases the son from servitude versus the true slave?

    (1)
- <sup>3</sup> So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world.
  - Q2. What are the "basic principles of the world" to which "we were in slavery"?
- <sup>⁴</sup> But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, <sup>⁵</sup> to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.
  - Q3. Who is God's Son?

Q4.	Who was the mother of God's Son?
Q5.	What does it mean that God's Son was "born under law"?
Q6.	How did God's Son "redeem those under law"?
Q7.	What does it mean to have "the full rights of sons"?

### **Romans 8:15-16** [NIV-1984]

<sup>15</sup> For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

### **Ephesians 1:4**<sup>b</sup>-6 [NIV-1984]

<sup>4b</sup> In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us to be <u>adopted</u> as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will -- <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

## Day 2

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Q8	S. Are you a	child of Go	od's?			

#### **Ephesians 1:13-14** [NIV-1984]

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit <u>guaranteeing our inheritance</u> until the redemption of those who are God's possession -- to the praise of his glory.

#### **Romans 10:8-11** [NIV-1984]

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

#### Acts 3:24-26 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)]

<sup>24-25</sup> Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel onwards who have spoken at all have foretold these days. You are the sons of the prophets and heirs of the agreement which God made with our fathers when he said to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

<sup>26</sup> It was to you first that God sent his servant after he had raised him up, to bring you great blessing by turning every one of you away from his evil ways."

#### Romans 3:29 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also

#### Acts 13:14, 44-49 [NIV-1984]

- <sup>14</sup> From Perga they [Paul, Barnabas, and their companions] went on to Pisidian Antioch [see map  $(\psi)$ ]. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down . . .
  - <sup>44</sup> On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.
  - <sup>45</sup> When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what

In the following Acts 3 ( $\psi$ ) passage, Peter is speaking to a number of Jews. We know that the promise to the Jews is explicitly expanded to include Gentiles. By the way if you are a non-Jew, then you are a Gentile.

Paul was saying.

<sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.
<sup>47</sup> For this is what the Lord has commanded us: " 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

<sup>48</sup> When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. <sup>49</sup> The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.



©2007 Logos Bible Software. Source: https://www.understandchristianity.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Timeline-Pauls-1st-and-2nd-Missionary-Journeys.png

# Concern for the Galatians

Paul now turns the argument to the Galatians and their beliefs.

<sup>8</sup> Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.

The J.B. Phillips version provides additional insight that helps us to better understand our standard text NIV-1984.

#### Galatians 4:8-11 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)]

At one time when you had no knowledge of God, you were under the authority of gods who had no real existence. But now that you have come to know God, or rather are known by him, how can you revert to dead and sterile principles and consent to be under their power all over again? Your religion is beginning to be a matter of observing certain days or months or seasons or years. Frankly, you stagger me, you make me wonder if all my efforts over you have been wasted!

Q9.	In the phrase	"you were slaves	to those who	by nature are	e not gods", v	what (or who	) does the
	word "who"	represent?					
		•					

#### **1 Corinthians 10:20** [NIV-1984] [In his 1st Letter to the Corinthians, Paul equated idols to demons:]

No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.

<sup>9</sup> But now that you know God -- or rather are known by God -- how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

Q10.	Which is	better: to	"know Go	d"? Or to	be "knowr	n by God"?	And why	?	

<sup>&</sup>quot;[M]any practise spiritual idolatry in their hearts. For what a man loves most, and cares most for, that is his god: some have their riches for their god, some their pleasures, and some their lusts. And many ignorantly worship a god of their own making; a god made all of mercy and no justice. For they persuade themselves that there is mercy for them with God, though they repent not, but go on in their sins. It is possible for those who have made great professions of religion, to be afterwards drawn aside from purity and simplicity." [©1706, Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible by Matthew Henry; <a href="https://biblehub.com/commentaries/galatians/4-8.htm">https://biblehub.com/commentaries/galatians/4-8.htm</a>]

**John 10:1-5** [The Message (MSG)] [Jesus taught that He is the Good Shepherd and knows His sheep by name.]

1-5 "Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he's up to no good — a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it. . . <sup>11</sup> "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary."

Q11.	What are "weak and miserable principles" and how do they enslave a person?
	are observing special days and months and seasons and years!  What can we infer about the Galatians beliefs, if they "are observing special days "?
Q13.	Does Paul infer that the Judaizers were successful?
	r for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.  Speculation: what was the initial response of the Galatians to Paul's outburst: "I have wasted my efforts on you"?
Q15.	Have you ever felt the emotion that prompted Paul's outburst?

# Day 3

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

# <sup>12a</sup> I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you.

Paul (or Saul) in his early adulthood was a highly-esteemed zealot among the Jewish Pharisees, and persecutor of early Christians. He gave it all up to preach the Gospel of Christ Jesus. He now asked the Galatians to "become like me".

Q16. Was Paul happy spreading the Good News of Christ Jesus?

Q17. Did Paul want the Galatians to minister to others in the Name of Jesus, thereby spreading the Word of God?

Q18. Paul then states that "I became like you". How did Paul demonstrate his 'Gentile-ness'?

### 1 Corinthians 9:20-21 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

<sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

<sup>&</sup>quot;I lay no stress on my pure Jewish descent. I claim no privileges because I was circumcised the eighth day. I do not count myself holier than you because I belonged to the strictest of all sects, the Pharisees. I stripped myself of all this, and became a Gentile among Gentiles." [@about 1880, Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers, edited by Charles J Ellicott. <a href="https://biblehub.com/commentaries/galatians/4-12.htm">https://biblehub.com/commentaries/galatians/4-12.htm</a>]

<sup>12b</sup> You have done me no wrong. <sup>13</sup> As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. <sup>14</sup> Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.

_	Paul switches from rebuke to fond remembrance.  How difficult might it be to demonstrate the love of Christ Jesus, when Paul was suffering from pain, malaise, humiliation from diaper-changing, and other indignities of convalescence
Q20.	God will use circumstances to fulfill His will. (Perhaps, Satan was allowed to inflict Paul's body with an – unidentified – illness.) God directed Paul to Gentiles, who would nurse him back to health, while giving Paul a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ Jesus and to demonstrate God's goodness and joy. It was probably not an easy convalescence. Yet, through his illness and recovery Paul witnessed, preached, argued, and persuaded the Galatians to believe in the one true Savior Christ Jesus.  How did the Galatians treat Paul during his illness and recovery?
	t has happened to all your joy? I can testify that, if you could have o, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.
_	Based on verse 15, how would you describe the relationship – at the time – between the Galatians and Paul?

# Day 4

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>16</sup> Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

<b>Q</b> 22.	What is Paul's	concern behind his	question?	

<sup>17</sup> Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them. <sup>18</sup> It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you.

Q23. Paul puts his finger on the motivation behind the Judaizers: "so that you may be zealous for them." What human trait drives that motivation?

Paul's Gospel message was continually challenged by the Judaizers, who advocated that for a person to be saved, the Gospel of Christ Jesus was not enough; it was the Gospel <u>plus</u> all of the 600<sup>+</sup> Jewish laws, rules, and regulations.

#### Acts 15:1-2, 5-11 [NIV-1984]

- <sup>1</sup> Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."
- <sup>2</sup> This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So, Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question . . .
- <sup>5</sup> Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees [Judaizers] stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses."
  - <sup>6</sup> The apostles and elders met to consider this question.
- <sup>7</sup> After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

<sup>19</sup> My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, <sup>20</sup> how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

	"My dear children": "He speaks as a parent, both with authority and the most tender sympathy toward weak and sickly children." [©about 1800, Commentary of the Old and New Testaments by Joseph Benson. Text Courtesy of BibleSupport.com. <a href="https://biblehub.com/commentaries/galatians/4-19.htm">https://biblehub.com/commentaries/galatians/4-19.htm</a> ]
	Paul compares "The struggle, which ends in the definite winning over of his converts to Christ, to the process of bird by which 'a man is born into the world.' In the case of the Galatians, after their relapse, this struggle [must be repeated]." [@about 1880, <i>Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers</i> , edited by Charles J Ellicott. <a href="https://biblehub.com/commentaries/galatians/419.htm">https://biblehub.com/commentaries/galatians/419.htm</a> ]
Q25.	Verse 20: Why would Paul write that he is "perplexed about you"?

## Day 5

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

# Sarah and Hagar

This paragraph is a highly abridged summary; the full text is found in Genesis, chapters 16-18, & 21. Abraham was married to Sarah and Sarah had a maidservant named Hagar.

God promised Abraham a son, an heir. Yet, as time went by, Sarah remained barren. The ever-aging Sarah and Abraham became impatient and decided that God wanted/needed their help. Sarah 'loaned' Hagar to Abraham, Hagar conceived, and bore a son named Ishmael, which means 'God hears'. Abraham was eighty-six years of age when Ishmael was born. Ishmael was born through human determination. (By the way, the covenant of circumcision between God and Abraham – and his descendants – was established in Genesis 17.)

Then, when Abraham was one hundred years of age and Sarah was ninety, Sarah gave birth to their son Isaac. Isaac was born under the covenant – the promise – that God established with Abraham (Genesis 17:19 & 21).

The Jews consider Abraham their father through Isaac; Islam considers Abraham their father through Ishmael.

<sup>21</sup> Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? <sup>22</sup> For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman [Hagar, Sarah's maidservant] and the other by the free woman [Sarah, Abraham's wife].

_	6. What was the name of Hagar's son? And the name of Sarah's son?  Hagar's son?
	Sarah's son?
	s son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way [human determination]; is son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise.
_	7. What is the significance, if any, of a baby "born in the ordinary way" versus "a promise"? Summarize "ordinary way"?
	Summarize "a promise"?
	Significance?

These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are								
o be slaves: This is Hagar.								
Q28. What does "Mount Sinai" represent?								
Exodus 19:1-3a (♥): God and Moses led the Jewish people out of Egyptian slavery, and the Jews travelled into the Sinai Desert to the base of Mount Sinai. On Mount Sinai, God dictated to Moses the Ten Commandments and additional rules, by which the Jewish people should use to govern their day-to-day behavior (recorded in Exodus 20).								
Exodus 19:1-3 <sup>a</sup> [NIV-1984] <sup>1</sup> In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt – on the very day – they came to the Desert of Sinai. <sup>2</sup> After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. <sup>3a</sup> Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain								
Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the								
resent city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.								
Q29. Why did Paul assert that Jerusalem "is in slavery"? In slavery to what?								
But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.								
Q30. Why would "the Jerusalem that is above" be "free"?								

#### **Revelation 21:1-7** [NIV-1984]

- <sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.
- <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the <u>new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God</u>, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.
- <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> He

will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

<sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

<sup>27</sup> For it is written: "Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labor pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."

This verse (and the quotation from Isaiah 54:1) is a difficult allegory for us to understand. The "barren woman" represents Sarah, and the heavenly Jerusalem, and the desolate woman; Sarah will have Jesus as a descendant, and by extension all Believers in Christ Jesus. While the Jewish nation is the wife of Father God ("her who has a husband"), the Jewish nation is unfruitful, atrophied.

Q31. Paul quotes Isaiah 54:1 ( $\checkmark$ ). Who is the "barren woman"?

#### Isaiah 54:1

"Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the Lord.

Q32. Who is the woman "who has a husband"?

#### Exodus 19:3-6 [The Message (MSG)]

<sup>3-6</sup> As Moses went up to meet God, God called down to him from the mountain: "Speak to the House of Jacob, tell the People of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to me. If you will listen obediently to what I say and keep my covenant, out of all peoples you'll be my special treasure. The whole Earth is mine to choose from, but you're special: a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.'

"This is what I want you to tell the People of Israel."

#### **Deuteronomy 7:6-10** [The Message (MSG)]

<sup>6</sup> Do this because <u>you are a people set apart as holy to God, your God</u>. God, your God, chose you out of all the people on Earth for himself as a cherished, personal treasure.

<sup>7-10</sup> God wasn't attracted to you and didn't choose you because you were big and important — the fact is, there was almost nothing to you. He did it out of sheer love, keeping the promise he made to your ancestors. God stepped in and mightily bought you back out of that world of slavery, freed you from the iron grip of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know this: God, your God, is God indeed, a God you can depend upon. He keeps his covenant of loyal love with those who love him and observe his

commandments for a thousand generations. But he also pays back those who hate him, pays them the wages of death; he isn't slow to pay them off — those who hate him, he pays right on time.

Q33. Sarah gave birth to a boy named Isaac. Throughout history, who is the most important descendant of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac?

#### Matthew 1:1-3, 16 [NIV-1984]

<sup>1</sup> A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: <sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup> Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar . . . <sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ [or Messiah].

# Day 6

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>28</sup> Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.

Q34. How are the Galatians – the "brothers" – "children of promise"?

Acts 2:36-39 [NIV-1984] [Peter and the other Apostles had just received the Holy Spirit and Peter then addressed his fellow-Jews and others in his audience.]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The <u>promise</u> is for you and your children and for <u>all who are far off</u> [Gentiles and others in remote lands] -- for <u>all whom the Lord our God will call</u>."

#### Acts 13:32-39 [NIV-1984]

- <sup>32</sup> "We tell you the good news: What <u>God promised</u> our fathers <sup>33</sup> he has fulfilled for us, their <u>children</u>, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: " 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father. [Psalm 2:7] '
- <sup>34</sup> The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words: "'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.' [Isaiah 55:3]
  - <sup>35</sup> So it is stated elsewhere: " 'You will not let your Holy One see decay.' [Psalm 16:10]
- <sup>36</sup> "For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. <sup>37</sup> But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.
- <sup>38</sup> "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. <sup>39</sup> Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.
- <sup>29</sup> At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.

Q35.	Who was the "son born in the ordinary way"?
Q36.	Who was the "son born by the power of the Spirit"?
	enesis 21:9 [The Message (MSG)] [Ishmael was 13-14 years older than Isaac.]  9 One day Sarah saw the son that Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham, poking fun at her son aac.
Q37.	What does Paul mean when he states "by the power of the Spirit"?
Q38.	Can it be said that Believers are "born by the power of the Spirit"?
	See the Enhesians 1:13-14 citation following verses 6 & 7 ( $\Phi$ )

Q3	9. How does the "son born in the ordinary way [persecute] the son born by the power of the Spirit"?
<sup>30</sup> Bu	t what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her
son,	for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the
free	woman's son."
	Genesis 21:9-18 [The Message (MSG)]  9-10 One day Sarah saw the son that Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham, poking fun at her son Isaac. She told Abraham, "Get rid of this slave woman and her son. No child of this slave is going to share inheritance with my son Isaac!"  11-13 The matter gave great pain to Abraham — after all, Ishmael was his son. But God spoke to Abraham, "Don't feel badly about the boy and your maid. Do whatever Sarah tells you. Your descendants will come through Isaac. Regarding your maid's son, be assured that I'll also develop a great nation from him — he's your son, too."  14-16 Abraham got up early the next morning, got some food together and a canteen of water for Hagar, put them on her back and sent her away with the child. She wandered off into the desert of Beersheba. When the water was gone, she left the child under a shrub and went off, fifty yards or so. She said, "I can't watch my son die." As she sat, she broke into sobs.  17-18 Meanwhile, God heard the boy crying. The angel of God called from Heaven to Hagar, "What's wrong, Hagar? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy and knows the fix he's in. Up now; go get the boy. Hold him tight. I'm going to make of him a great nation."
<sup>31</sup> Th	erefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the
free	woman.
Q4	0. Are you a child of the "slave woman" or the "free woman"?

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