

Connect

How can you be sure that what you believe is in fact true?

Verses - Galatians 4 (NKJV)

Galatians 4:1-12

1 Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a
slave although he is owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and
managers until the date set by the father. 3 So also we, while we were
children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. 4
But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a
woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were
under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 Because you
are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying,
"Abba! Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son,
then an heir through God. 8 But then, indeed, when you did not know God,
you served those which by nature are not gods. 9 But now after you have
known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the
weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? 10
You observe days and months and seasons and years. 11 I am afraid for you,
lest I have labored for you in vain. 12 Brethren, I urge you to become like
me, for I became like you.

Galatians 4:28-31

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. 29 But, as he
who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born
according to the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what does the
Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the
bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” 31 So then,
brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Study

1. In vv.1-7, Paul compares how a child's behavior is trained by external rules and regulations (v3) to how our behavior is now transformed by the indwelling of the Spirit (v6).

   How do these two ways differ, and what different results can be expected from them?

2. Paul considers following religious customs (v10), as a means to gain God's acceptance, a return to idolatry (v8,9). Thus denying the true God who saves by faith alone.

   What are reasons some are tempted to go backwards, and cease relying on faith in Christ alone? (Philippians 3:3; Galatians 2:12-13; Ephesians 2:9)

3. What will happen to those who try to be "Christians" according to the flesh, and not according to the Spirit? (v30-31; John 3:3; Matthew 7:23; Titus 1:16)

APPLY: How can we help someone who seeks to grow spiritually by law-keeping, and not by the Holy Spirit? (Romans 14:1; 7:6; 8:3-4; Hebrews 7:19; 1 Peter 5:10) How would an understanding of the inheritance and how it is obtained be helpful?

DISCUSS: In which areas of your life do you tend to follow the "letter of the law" rather than being led by the Spirit? What would help you to develop a more Christ-like thoughtfulness in guiding your behavior?

Share

Your Christian friend wants to marry a non-believer. The non-believer fiance, however, said he or she will convert to Christianity to get married. What scripture would you use to counsel them? What scripture would you use to guide yourself?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray God will reveal to us how to glorify Him and not ourselves in what we do.
- Pray for we can accept, love, and encourage those who may be weaker in faith.