

Galatians 4 (Part 1) Small Group Notes • Grace vs. Karma

Read Galatians 4: 1-7

- What picture does Paul use in the first two verses of chapter 4 to depict those who are not acquainted with the Grace of the Gospel? (4:1-2)
- What similarities does the Apostle point out between such a person and an heir who is still a minor?
- When Paul makes the connection in verse 3, does he speak of our condition as in the past, present or future. (Answer: past)
 - What makes that condition a thing of the past? (Answer: It was our condition PRIOR to coming to Christ.)
- How was our “before-Christ” condition like that of a slave? (4:3)
- What does Paul mean by “**elementary principles of the world**”? (Answer: Karma, law of cause and effect, what you get is what you deserve) (4:3)
- What other words or phrases can you think of to describe the “**elementary principles of the world**”?
- How is living under the elementary principles of the world similar to living under the Law? (Answer: Both cause fear and slavery for those who are trying to measure up.)
- In **verse 4** the Apostle starts his statement with the word “**But...**” What does that tell you about what he’s about to say? (Answer: The information to come will either solve, or contradict or provide a solution for the previous situation or problem.) (4:4)
- What solution does Paul spell out in **verse 4 and 5**? (4:4-5)
- How do the words “**adoption as sons**” apply to the example Paul used as an illustration in **verses 1 and 2**? (4:4-5) What is Paul wanting us to know about our inheritance in Christ?
- Why was it inconsistent for the believers in Galatia to have received their adoption as sons and then to go back under the Law?
- How does walking in God’s grace differ from a life of “getting what you deserve?”
- We read Psalm 103: 10-11 in the Sunday teaching. Read the entire Psalm and note the other insights that David wrote about that showed that he understood God’s grace.
- Would you say most believers you know behave like slaves from Paul’s example, or like those who know and are walking in God’s grace?
- How can we become better acquainted with God’s grace?
- What ways can we encourage others to walk in God’s grace?