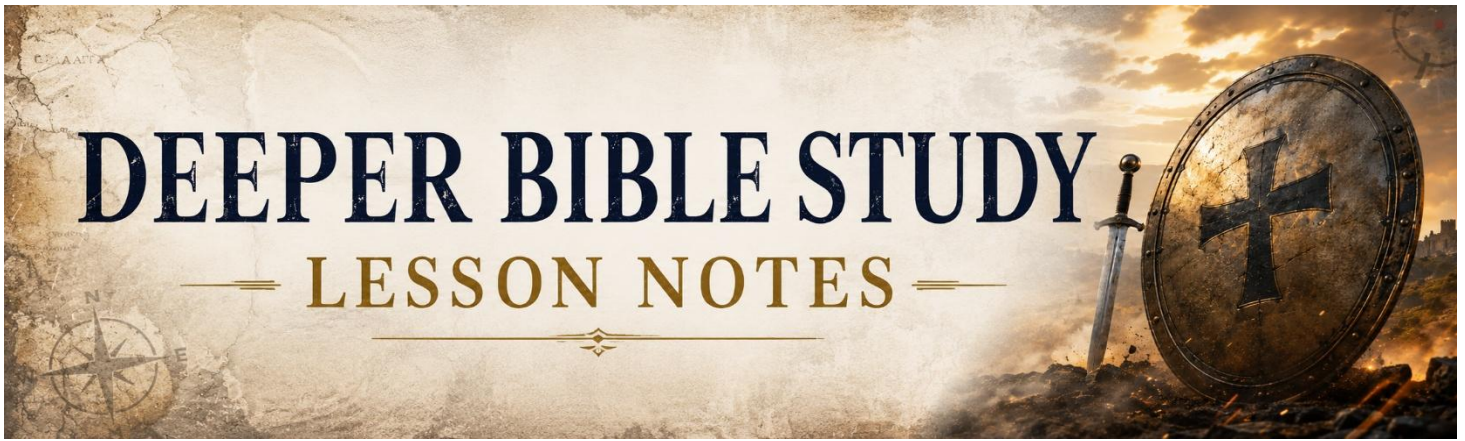




GOING BACK TO NOTHING (GALATIANS 4) | PASTOR ADAM AZIZ

WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN GALATIA

- These believers were going backwards... into religion.
 - Paul uses 2 words for what they were going back to: _____ and _____.

THE HEIR WHO LIVES LIKE A SLAVE

Galatians 4:1-3 (NLT)... If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had. They have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set. And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world.

- **PICTURE A WEALTHY HOUSE WITH A LITTLE BOY WHO WILL INHERIT EVERYTHING.**
 - Right now he has less day-to-day freedom than a high-ranking slave in that same house.
- **“THE BASIC SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF THIS WORLD”**
 - **STOICHEIA** (*stoy-kay-ah*) = the _____. Elementary principles. Kindergarten.
 - Paul is describing a way of living that keeps humanity trapped in a system of earning, measuring, deserving, and performing.
- **WE UNDERSTAND THAT SYSTEM BECAUSE IT IS EVERYWHERE...**
 - Do good, get good. Do bad, get bad.
 - Earn enough, and you are accepted. Fail enough, and you are rejected.
 - You cannot build your relationship with God on a system of deserving.
 - _____ contradicts the merit system.

- **UNDER GRACE...**

- My goodness cannot _____ me.
- My failure does not have the _____ over me.
- My obedience does not _____ God's love.
- My sin does not put me beyond the reach of His _____.

WHEN THE RIGHT TIME CAME

Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)... But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

- **“WHEN THE RIGHT TIME CAME” — literally, the _____ of the time.**
 - It felt late to everybody who was waiting. It was right on time.
- **“BORN OF A WOMAN, SUBJECT TO THE LAW”**
 - Born of a woman = fully human. Born under the law = fully obedient.
 - He had to be _____ to have the **POWER** to redeem us.
 - He had to be _____ to have the **RIGHT** to redeem us.
- **HE DID NOT STOP AT BUYING OUR FREEDOM... HE _____ US.**
 - In Roman adoption, the adopted son had absolutely equal standing and equal rights as an heir.
 - We _____ this adoption. We do not _____ it.

THE PRIVILEGE OF CALLING GOD “DADDY”

Galatians 4:6-7 (NLT)... And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

- **GOD DID NOT JUST GIVE YOU THE STATUS OF A SON. HE GAVE YOU THE EXPERIENCE OF IT.**
 - He sent His Son so you could have the _____ of sonship.
 - He sent His Spirit so you could have the _____ of it.
 - *Romans 8:16 (NLT)... For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.*

- **“ABBA” IS ARAMAIC.** It is what a small child called his father inside the house.
 - The closest thing we have to it is “_____.”
 - It is the exact word Jesus used in the garden when He prayed. *(Mark 14:36)*
- **LOOK AT THE VERB — THE SPIRIT IS PROMPTING US TO _____.**
 - When a person is unsure, their mouth stays half-shut and the words come out broken or muffled.
 - Crying out is the sound of somebody who is _____.
- **THE PROGRESSION IN VS 7 IS THE WHOLE GOSPEL IN 1 VERSE...**
 - 1. You were a _____.
 - 2. Now you are a _____.
 - 3. And since you are a child — you are an _____.
 - **And what do you inherit? GOD HIMSELF.**

GOING BACK TO NOTHING

Galatians 4:8-11 (NLT)... Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist. So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world? You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years. I fear for you.

- **WATCH PAUL CORRECT HIMSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF A SENTENCE...**
 - It matters more that God _____ you than that you know about God.
 - *Matthew 7:22-23 (NLT)... On judgment day many will say to me... “We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.” But I will reply, “I never knew you.”*
- **THE 2 WORDS HE USES FOR WHAT THEY WERE GOING BACK TO...**
 - _____ — because it offers no strength. It cannot help you do 1 thing.
 - _____ — because it bestows no riches. It cannot give you 1 thing.
- **LEGALISM LOOKS LIKE MATURITY.**
 - Legalism caters to the _____ — it puts the focus on what I achieve for God instead of what Jesus did for me.

HAVE I BECOME YOUR ENEMY?

Galatians 4:13-16 (NLT)... Surely you remember that I was sick when I first brought you the Good News. But even though my condition tempted you to reject me, you did not despise me or turn me away... you would have taken out your own eyes and given them to me. Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?

- **HE ONLY CAME TO GALATIA IN THE 1ST PLACE BECAUSE HE GOT SICK.**
 - In that world, sickness was read as a sign of God punishing you. They had every cultural reason to write him off. Instead, they received him as an angel from God... THAT'S LOVE.

- **“HAVE I NOW BECOME YOUR ENEMY BECAUSE I AM TELLING YOU THE TRUTH?”**
 - This is the cost of honest ministry and honest friendship.

ZEAL WITH AN AGENDA

Galatians 4:17-19 (NLT)... Those false teachers are so eager to win your favor, but their intentions are not good. They are trying to shut you off from me so that you will pay attention only to them... Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives.

- **PAUL ADMITS THE FALSE TEACHERS WERE VERY ATTENTIVE TO THEM.**
 - This is a tactic still used today. It is called _____.
 - A form of psychological and emotional abuse that involves excessive flattery, gifts, and pressure to gain control over someone.

- **“THEY ARE TRYING TO SHUT YOU OFF FROM ME.”**
 - The Greek word there literally means to lock you up.

- **PAUL DOES NOT ATTACK THEIR ZEAL.**
 - *“If someone is eager to do good things for you, that's all right...”*
 - Zeal is not the problem. The object of the zeal is the problem.
 - Paul had all the zeal in the world before he got saved — and he used it to persecute the church. (*Acts 8:3*)

- **THEN PAUL SWITCHES METAPHORS AND BECOMES A MOTHER...**
 - *“I feel as if I am going through labor pains for you again.”*
 - Paul has the labor pains... but _____ is what gets formed in them.

ISAAC OR ISHMAEL?

Galatians 4:21-23 (NLT)... Tell me, you who want to live under the law, do you know what the law actually says? The Scriptures say that Abraham had two sons, one from his slave wife and one from his freeborn wife. The son of the slave wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfillment of his promise.

- **THEY KEPT SAYING “WE ARE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM.” AND PAUL SAYS: ABRAHAM HAD 2 SONS.**
 - **ISHMAEL** — born of Hagar, the slave.
 - **ISAAC** — born of Sarah, the free woman. Born as God's own fulfillment of His promise.

- **THE 2 FAMILY LINES — WHICH 1 ARE YOU IN?**

➤ ISHMAEL = slavery	ISAAC = freedom
➤ ISHMAEL = born of the flesh	ISAAC = born of God's promised miracle
➤ ISHMAEL = earthly Jerusalem	ISAAC = the heavenly Jerusalem
➤ ISHMAEL = persecuting	ISAAC = persecuted
➤ ISHMAEL = inherits nothing	ISAAC = inherits everything

Galatians 4:24-26 (NLT)... These two women serve as an illustration of God's two covenants. The first woman, Hagar, represents Mount Sinai where people received the law that enslaved them... But the other woman, Sarah, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. She is the free woman, and she is our mother.

- **2 WOMEN. 2 SONS. 2 MOUNTAINS. 2 CITIES. 2 COVENANTS.**
 - **SINAI** — where the law came. It gives birth to slaves.
 - **It's all about what I must do for God to accept me.**
 - **JERUSALEM ABOVE** — where grace comes.
 - **Jesus already paid, and we do not have to pay it again.**

CAST OUT THE SLAVE WOMAN

Galatians 4:28-31 (NLT)... And you, dear brothers and sisters, are children of the promise, just like Isaac. But you are now being persecuted by those who want you to keep the law, just as Ishmael, the child born by human effort, persecuted Isaac, the child born by the power of the Spirit. But what do the Scriptures say about that? “Get rid of the slave and her son, for the son of the slave woman will not share the inheritance with the free woman's son.”

- **“YOU ARE CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE, JUST LIKE ISAAC.”**
 - **If you are in Christ — you are an Isaac.**

- **BUT NOW COMES A WARNING NOBODY WANTS... FLESH ALWAYS _____ PROMISE.**

- Ishmael mocked Isaac. (*Genesis 21:9*)
 - **Expect opposition when the promise starts maturing in you.**

- **THEN COMES THE HARDEST COMMAND IN THE CHAPTER... “GET RID OF THE SLAVE AND HER SON.”**
 - Hagar and Sarah could not live in the same house. (*Genesis 21:8-14*)
 - **Once the son of promise showed up, the slave woman had to go.**

- **SO WHAT IS THE ISHMAEL IN YOUR LIFE?**
 - Are you willing to cast it out?