



Sermon, Sunday December 29, 2024

"Life as a Child of God"

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:4-7 ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

Introduction: Limitations of a legalistic life and warnings against such a life

Today is the first Sunday after Christmas. Today's text, Galatians 4:4, says: **"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law."**

What Paul is trying to emphasize through this verse is that Jesus came to the world through a human body and lived a human life like us.

However, if Jesus is the same savior with spiritual authority as God, then he can save the people of the world with his power, but you may ask why he was born from a woman's body to a human body and lived with limitations. To this, Paul answers, **to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. (Galatians 4:5)**

Paul says that the reason the Son of God became human was to save people who were under the control of the law. Paul described the law as a curse in Galatians 3:10.

But why is the law a curse? The Jews have systematized the law throughout their long history. Among the Jews, there were many who studied the law professionally and tried to keep it. Representative examples include the scribes and Pharisees. In their view, Jesus was someone who denied the law.

However, Jesus criticized them as being like 'whitewashed tombs.' In fact, the law cannot solve all the world's problems, but the law was essential for Jews to protect their families and people. Based on the Jewish law, pious people stay away from tax collectors and sinners and strictly observe the Sabbath. Jesus also knew this well. Even Jesus did not completely deny the necessity of the law. However, the problem is that although the law was a means to save people, it became the purpose.

Paul's expression that being governed by the law today is a curse refers to the limitations of the law. However, we cannot escape this legal life all at once. Apostle Paul also knew this reality of people. Nevertheless, Paul strongly stated that a legal life is cursed. The reason Paul said this is because the fundamentals of our lives will not change unless we escape from legal life. Also, when we lose awareness of legal life, we fall deeply into a legal life.

Regarding this kind of legal life, Paul says in Galatians 4:3; **'So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world.'**

Paul saw the people of his time entrusting their fate to astrology, Greek philosophy, and Jewish law as being enslaved to the basic principles of the world. In slavery here means that we have chosen to live a life of loss of freedom.



Body: Spirit of the Son (Spirit of Christ)

In today's text, Paul expressed salvation is from the curse of the law as adopted the child of God. In other words, because of Jesus, our status has changed from that of slave to that of child of God.

However, there may be people who think that even if we believe in Jesus, nothing changes on the outside, so they are not sure whether they have become the child of God. So, in verse 6 of today's text, Paul said, **'God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!'**. According to this verse, a person who has not received the Spirit of the Son cannot call God 'Abba, Father!'. Because they do not know that they have become the children of God. Here, the **'Spirit of the Son'** is the **'Spirit of Jesus Christ.'** Even though the Spirit of Christ is invisible to our eyes, but we can experience it powerfully.

Around us, we often see people who courageously accept the misfortune that befalls them. We would be very moved if we saw people who remained courageous and at peace in their souls even during misfortune.

Jesus' disciples and early Christians experienced the joy and peace that only children of God can enjoy through Jesus. This means that God sent the Spirit of his Son (the Spirit of Christ) to Jesus' disciples and early Christians. As a result, they now call God **'Abba, Father.'** This means that their relationship with God is completely renewed. So, in verse 7, the last verse of the text, Paul says, **'So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.'**

Now we have become children of God. The change in our status from slave to children (sons) of God means that we have entered a relationship of complete trust with God the Father.

A slave has a fearful heart towards his master, but a son builds a relationship with his father based on love and trust rather than fear. So, the son does not think that his father will treat him as well as he worked. Because the son knows that he is his father's heir.

Every Christian strives to live in the freedom of the Son. But sometimes it doesn't work out. This is because we believe that the problems we face in life cannot be solved with this kind of faith alone. So many people try to return to a legal life. (Galatians 4:9, 11)

In fact, on the surface, the course of life is the same for both the slave and the son. The important difference between the two is whether one lives internally as a slave or as a child (son) of God. There are people in the world who are slaves to the law, and there are people who follow the law but act as free people. I think the difference in life between the two is as follows.

Conclusion: I hope you wish to live your life as a son of God.

I pray and hope that the rest of my life will be filled with no worries, concerns, or complaints. I believe that if we know deep in our souls that we are sons of God, we will not worry about what will happen to us. I don't worry about what I will eat, drink, or wear. Of course, if serious financial difficulties arise, I may worry about it for a while, but it will not change my life as a son of God into a life as a slave. Also, I don't worry about what if I get seriously ill. Furthermore, I don't worry about what my children will do if they encounter difficulties.

Of course, if something serious happens to me that I didn't want, it will be difficult for a while, but I will come to my senses again. Because I am confident that God, who creates, rules, and perfects the world, is my 'Abba, Father.' I believe that the Lord will guide my life in the best way. I also hope that my life will participate in the pain of the Lord who experienced the greatest pain.

However, because I am weak, I pray to the Lord for strength to overcome this difficult situation. I think this is life as a son of God.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Paul declared that our status is not as slave but as sons of God. He said that we can realize and experience this fact because God the Father gave us the Spirit of Jesus. I hope that you and I can enjoy the freedom and joy as children of God rather than a life governed by the law.

