THE BOOK OF GALATIANS
"Standing in Christ"

Gal. 4:1-7

Introduction

1. What God does for a sinner through His infinite grace will never be fathomed. Slices of His provision, however, are listed in the Bible.

2. Zeroed in by the conclusion of 3:26-29, Paul argues that the new standing of a believer is effected through Christ alone. It is all guaranteed in Him.

3. This guarantee in Christ relates itself in four directions and concerns itself with four specifics:

1. Consideration of the Heir, vv. 1-2

   a. In tender years.

      1) As a slave. Legally, Paul argues, the minor (child) is as a bondman. Prospectively, it is admitted, he is "lord of all." He is the real owner, but not the actual owner!

      2) As a subordinate. Respecting his person, he is under a tutor or guardian (Greek: overseer). Concerning his property, he is under a governor or steward - (Greek: manager).

   b. In major years.

      The conditions listed above change drastically at the time established by the statues.

2. Relation to the Law, v. 3.

   The case as set down in vv. 1-2 is dramatically applied to the Jewish situation and his relationship to the law. The word "children" connotes the former arrangement. Then, they were:

   a. Under bondage.

      The periphrastic construction in the Greek suggests the inextricableness of their former situation!
b. Under regulations.
   The word used for "elements" originally meant the ABC's set in a row. Hence, something elementary.

3. Manifestation of CHRIST, vv. 4, 5.
   Here is an invitation from heaven which completely alters the picture. Mark:
   a. It was timed. Here is a philosophy of history by which a predetermined purpose purpose of God issues stage by stage. The time was full at each stage!
   b. It was energized. God bridged the gap!
   c. It was localized. Christ "became" out of a woman. Pure humanity. Virgin birth proposed by term "woman."
   d. It was subjected. The Mosaic economy obtained.
   e. It was designed. The facts of v. 4 are followed by two subjunctive verbs in v. 5 to show that God had a goal in view. It was twofold:
      1) To redeem. This concerns a past obligation! Glorious purchase of God in Christ - redemption for those under the law!
      2) To provide. This relates to a possible appropriation. This does not concern birth rights, but adoption rights. Noun for "adoption of sons" is one word in Greek. Means: place as sons. Hallelujah!

4. Implication for BELIEVERS, vv. 6, 7.
   With the previous verses as a ground, Paul concludes that two specifics are realized:
      What mutual confidence is established between the believer and the Lord! What closer communion could we enjoy than this!
   b. Privilege of an heir, v. 7
      By a marvelous argument of perfect harmony with his previous statements, Paul comes back to

where he left off in 3:29 - an heir!

Conclusion:

Beloved, all of this grand truth is available "through God". Planned by the Father (v. 4), accomplished by the Son (v. 5), and experienced by the Spirit (v. 6).

NOTES