THE BOOK OF GALATIANS
Redemption and Adoption
Galatians 4:5-7

Update
1. Galatians teaches that the salvation from sin offered by God to a believing soul is entirely apart from any kind of works system. It is entirely by grace, i.e. God giving to a believer what he really doesn't deserve.

2. Because the law of Moses was given to Israel as a nation -- not to the Gentile nations nor to the church which is the Body of Christ -- Abraham, the father of the Israel people, is used as an illustration in Galatians 3. His life and experiences are all through faith.

3. The grace/faith system is further differentiated from the law/works system in Galatians 4. It is clearly shown by the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul that grace/faith has a divine purpose in mind. At least two are indicated:

1. REDEMPTION v. 5
   The purpose clause denotes that the grace/faith system is divinely designed. Consider this:-
   a. Contextually
      Redemption is focused here on those "under the law." This specifically zeros in on the Jewish people. They are the ones who were given the law of Moses (cf. Ex. 19, 20). Make no mistake about it. The law could not bring salvation for a Jewish soul (Gal. 3:21). It was a system of bondage (Gal. 4:3) and redemption from it was required. Thank God, the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 4:4) provided just that (Gal. 4:5)! After all, He came to save "His people" from "their (Jewish) sins" (Matt. 1:21).
   b. Lexically
      Three different terms are used in the N.T. for the concept of "redemption." Each has a significant meaning:
      1) Buy. This basic term is used in reference to the market place (cf. Mt. 14:15). Strictly speaking, it means that Christ bought us with His blood and believers are now His property (cf. 1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23; 2 Pet. 2:1; Rev. 5:9; 14:3, 4).
      2) Buy out. This is a strengthened form of the verb "to buy." It has reference to purchasing with a view to freedom (e.g. for a slave). It is this verb which is used here in Galatians (3:13; 4:5).
      3) Buy out and released. Here is a verb used to release on receipt of a ransom. This verb signifies actual deliverance and the setting at liberty (cf. Luke 24:21; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet, 1:18).

   NOTE: When considering the work of the Lord Jesus for a sinner, let it be remembered that the genuine believer is bought, bought out, and actually delivered from the bondage of sin. Redeemed -- how blessed to proclaim it!

   c. Illustratively
      Hosea illustrates dramatically the doctrine of redemption. Gomer, Hosea's wife, was ultimately "bought" (Hosea 3:2). She was "bought out" for she was to abide with Hosea (Hosea 3:3) and finally she was "bought out and released" (Hosea 3:3) for her new relationship was to be permanent. What an amazing illustration!

2. ADOPTION
   This is the second recorded purpose clause which affirms that the grace/faith system is divinely designed. Consider this:-
   a. It is experienced v. 5
      The aorist verb denotes something actual. The moment a sinner believes, he has the liberty of a full grown man! True, long years of experience adapt a person to the Word, but his resource is the same -- the Holy Spirit! Let no one plead, therefore, I am a new believer and cannot possibly be what older believers are. All are expected to live the life unto Christ (cf. Eph. 1:5).
   b. It is explained vv. 6, 7
      Being placed as a son (not a child) God has sent out (Aorist tense) His spirit into the hearts of His own redeemed ones. The closeness in the divine economy allows for the name "Spirit of Christ." The Spirit keeps on crying (Present tense) Abba, Father. The former noun "Abba" is an Aramaic word found three times in the N.T. (Mk 14:36; Rom. 8:15; here). Slaves were forbidden to speak to the head of a family by this term. It was used by small children and refers to the personal name of the "father." It speaks of perfect trust while "father" conveys an intelligent apprehension of a relationship. No wonder it is stated here (v. 7) that the believer is no more a servant, but a son (full and mature!). That qualifies the believer to be an "heir of God through Christ." This is the acme of the believer's position.
   c. It is extrapolated
      Elsewhere, adoption is used meaningfully:
      1) Of Israel Rom. 9:4. The nation has a national placement above all other peoples. This has never been abrogated!
      2) Of N.T. believers. In Romans 8:14-17 adoption indicates believers have been delivered from the power of the flesh while in Romans 8:23 the final placing as exalted mature sons will be at the return of Christ. Then the body will be redeemed!

Postdate. The grace/faith salvation explicated in these verses is above and beyond one's comprehension. Amazingly -- it is all true apart from a law/works system. That's pure GRACE. Amen.