

“And Abraham Believed God: The Man of Faith” (Part 4)
The Prison of Sin and the Freedom of Christ
Galatians 3:23-29

“We cannot come to Christ to be justified until we have first been to Moses to be condemned. But once we have gone to Moses, and acknowledged our sin, guilt and condemnation, we must not stay there. We must let Moses send us to Christ.” (John Stott)

“There is no one more free than the one who is a slave to a perfect master.” (Paul Washer)

- (Galatians 3:23) The Law Imprisoned Us:
 - The “we” are the Jewish people and the “you are all” are the Jews and Gentiles.
 - Before we were saved we were imprisoned spiritually to sin. Slaves to sin. We loved sinning. The law told us the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). *“For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20). “But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves to sin...having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness” (Romans 6:17-18).*
- (Galatians 3:24-25) The Law Was Our Guardian:
 - A *guardian* was culturally a servant/slave who was given full authority over a child. There was no part of the child’s life that the *guardian* did not have authority over. After the child matured the *guardian* would become their friend, not the authority. The *guardian* was usually a servant/slave that was unable to do any other task due to old age or injury.
 - When a child became a man, culturally, they would take off a certain toga that was distinct with a purple hem and would be given a new all white toga as they entered into maturity. They put on a “new garment”.
- (Galatians 3:26-27) We Are Now Mature Sons of God By Faith:
 - Only in Christ Jesus are we sons and daughters of God. Before Christ we were enemies of God (Romans 5:10); we were children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3); and children of the devil (John 8:44). What an amazing transformation has happened in Christ.
 - As a Roman young man became a mature son/adult, he would then receive all rights, privileges, and benefits of being a Roman Citizen.
 - As we are spiritually baptized into Christ we now put on Christ (Galatians 2:20). In Romans 6:1-14 we get a beautiful picture of what it looks like to be baptized into Christ:

1) We get to walk in the newness of life.	4) We no longer have to obey sin’s passions.
2) We are guaranteed a future bodily resurrection.	5) We can live holy lives.
3) We are set free from our enslavement to sin.	6) We are covered by His grace; all our sins are forgiven.
- (Galatians 3:28-29) We Are Privileged Heirs in Christ:
 - Under the law there were advantages to being a Jew over a Gentile. Freedoms that a master had that a slave didn’t. Things that men participated in that women didn’t. But when it comes to being baptized into Christ, or being saved, these distinctions do not limit in any way!!!! *But in Christ there are unique ways that all of these groups give glory to Christ.*
 - In Christ we are benefactors of everything that comes along with salvation. In Revelation 21:1-4,7 we see the culmination of this heritage!

Worship: Psalm 18 — Citizens

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms — Various Artists

From Everlasting (Psalm 90) — Sovereign Grace Music

Closing Song: Before The Throne Of God Above —Sovereign Grace Music

Service Times: Sundays: Teaching Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

Announcements:

★**CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING:** We will be having a business meeting *TONIGHT* immediately following the worship service to discuss the 2023 Church Budget. This meeting will last 30-45 minutes. If you are currently a church member, please plan on staying for this important meeting!

★**BAPTISMS:** Our next baptism service will be in 2 weeks on Sunday, February 5th. If you are interested in being baptized or have any questions about being baptized, please see Pastor Jeremy or one of the Elders.

★**SOTERIOLOGY (PRACTICUM COURSE):** *NEXT* Monday, January 30th, we will be starting a new course of study in the Practicum: Soteriology — the theology of salvation. This particular course is open to ANYONE in the church who would like to audit the class. The Practicum is held every Monday from 6-9pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Soteriology course will run for 9-10 weeks, and will be taught by Pastor Jeremy and Elder Richard. If you are interested in auditing this class or if you have any questions about this class, please see Elder Richard!

★**CHURCH DAY OF PRAYER:** THIS Wednesday, January 25th, will be our monthly day of prayer as a church body. We ask that everyone set aside a specific time of prayer on that day to pray for the leaders and ministries of our church body. Please see the prayer points below for this day of prayer.↓

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner *NEXT* Sunday, January 29th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy dinner and fellowship with us!

→**Prayer Points for Day of Prayer (Wednesday, January 25th):**

- Pray for wisdom and steadfastness for our Elders and Deacons as they lead and serve the church body (1 Corinthians 15:58; James 1:5).
- Pray that as a church body we would have the boldness to speak God's Word to the people in our lives and that we will have eyes to see the opportunities God gives us to do so. Pray that our burden for evangelism would grow (Colossians 4:2-4).
- Pray that as a church body we would strive to increasingly love God with all our hearts, and souls, and minds, and strength (Mark 12:30).
- Pray that as a church body we would grow in our love for one another, grow in our humility, gentleness, and patience toward one another, and grow in our unity with one another (Mark 12:31; John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 3:12-17).