

December 14, 2023

***“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”***

Galatians 4:4–5 (NKJV)

### ***“Born of a woman”***

Paul’s point is not to emphasize the sign of the virgin birth but to stress the humanity of Christ. Jesus came in all the frailty of the flesh that we experience. He was born with the same physical and emotional needs we possess that allow us to be tempted. And He was born with the same desires we have that can so easily be distorted and twisted into sin by pride: by self-justification. Born of a woman, Jesus, the Lord of Creation, came into the realm He had created. And when He came, Jesus enveloped Himself in the same weaknesses that plague us all our lives. Being born of a woman, the Savior of humanity became part of the human race.

### ***“Born under the law”***

Because He came as one of us, Jesus was born under the law. It’s a consequence of being born into this world. All of us are accountable to God’s law. Jesus, born of Mary, was no different. As a Jew, Jesus was subject to the written Law God had given to Moses at Sinai. As a man, created in God’s image, Jesus was subject to the natural law written in the heart of each of us that accuses or excuses our thoughts and deeds (Rom 2:12-16). Why did He come this way? *Jesus came this way to redeem you!*

### ***“To redeem those who were under the law”***

To redeem means to “buy out of slavery or buy out of bondage”. The price for our freedom? Immanuel, God with us! Born under the law, Jesus was tempted in every way like us, yet without sin (Heb 4:15). On the cross, Jesus became the sinless offering for our sin. This is why Jesus came. As the writer of Hebrews put it, “He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (Heb 9:26). But, much more than that, Jesus has made the way for us to receive the adoption of sons!

### ***“That we might receive the adoption as sons”***

In Paul’s time, all would have understood the ramifications of this, for it is based on the Roman (and Greek) formalities and laws regarding adoption. I won’t give you all the details. However, here are a few things you should know.

- The adopted person lost all rights to his old family, and gained all the rights of a fully legitimate son in his new family. In the most literal sense, and in the most legally binding way, he got a new father. *And it was if he never had a different one. The old father had no say regarding the one who was no longer his son.*

You have a new Father, God, and the old one, Satan has no say in what you do.

- The adopted son became an heir to his new father's estate. Even if other sons were afterwards born, who were real blood relations, it did not affect his rights. He was inalienably co-heir with them.

You are a co-heir in God's kingdom with Christ forever!

- In law, the old life of the adopted person was completely wiped out. For instance, legally all debts were cancelled; they were wiped out as though they had never been. *The adopted person was regarded as a new person entering into a new life on which the past had no impact.*

In Christ, the Bible says you are a new creation and God has wiped the sin slate clean. He remembers your sin no more!

- In the eyes of the law the adopted person was literally and absolutely the son of the new father.

In the eyes of God, if you have become His child, you are His child. Forever!

- There were witnesses to the adoption in case they were needed to testify later. *"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" " (Gal 4:6 )*

The Holy Spirit is our witness who testifies to us regarding our redemption and subsequent new life as a child of the Father!

*As you celebrate the birth of the Christ-child, remember the cross. For the victory ordained before there was light, which was declared by the angels at Jesus' birth was won at the cross!*

When you receive this Cindy and I will be beginning our last week of ringing the bell for the Salvation Army this year. Over the time we have done this, we have distributed thousands of Gospel tracts AND the Salvation Army has received a boost in the funds they will have to minister to others in our area. Please be in prayer for the Lord to use these "Gospel seeds", and the donations collected, for the furtherance of His Kingdom!

We thank you for the recent support the Lord has provided through you. With it we have been able to send a "Christmas present" of blankets and winter clothing to our Brothers and Sisters at Vieux Carre to aid them in ministering to the homeless as they proclaim the Gospel in the French Quarter. May you know the Lord's blessings for your generosity!

*As 2023 comes to an end, we give thanks to the Lord for all the ways He has allowed us to serve Him this year and we look forward with anticipation to the opportunities He will place before us in 2024!*

**Please pray for the following:**

- Please stand in the gap for your Brothers and Sisters that we, as His people, would act with faith on the promise in 2 Chron 7:14.
- Pray for our nation's leaders at every level.
- Pray for the peace of Israel.
- We ask that you pray for the ongoing ministry of Call of Grace

***Is there something we can pray for you? If so please let us know.***

Thank you for your prayers and support. Everything the Lord calls us to do is done with your help and we are truly grateful you are a part of this ministry to the Lord. If He calls you to go on mission with us, wherever we go, or to help support a mission or any part of our ministry, please let us know. Likewise, if you or your church believe we could be of service to you as regards your evangelistic efforts, please contact us.

*Merry Christmas!*

*Dennis & Cindy*

**~Cindy's Bottom Line~**

The angel proclaimed the greatest greeting ever sent...

***"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."***

Luke 2:10-11 NIV

*Merry Christmas everyone!*

Call of Grace Ministries is a 501(c)3 ministry and your contributions are tax deductible. All donations to Call of Grace are used for ministry expenses. We go as God provides and your support of this ministry is a blessing to us as we move forward in the Lord's call.