



**OUR FATHER'S LOVE—Living the Gospel** Galatians 4:1-7

We had the privilege of Joe Page teaching this week's section of Galatians. As many of you already know, we support Joe and his family as they serve the gospel in the United Arab Emirates. Joe shared with us last Sunday night about his experiences in Dubai and how we can be most effective when talking about the gospel with Muslims. Joe is back this week to share with all of us as he jumps into the middle of Galatians and walks us through Paul's teachings on what it means to be heirs to the promise. If you missed Joe on Sunday, visit TCBC's website and listen to the sermon online.

**Getting Started**

Joe gave us the biblical definition of an heir. He talked about what it means to be an heir of God and a co-heir with Christ. Let's talk about what it means to be an heir today. We're going to begin this week's group with an icebreaker based on this idea. Is everyone ready? Great. Let's begin.

What do you usually think of when you hear heir?  
Whose heir are you? Who are your heirs?  
What does a person have to do to become an heir?

What kind of things come about as a result of being an heir?  
What is the process of becoming an heir?  
Can a person lose their status as an heir?

We are beginning a new chapter this week. Before diving into the study, glance back over the first three chapters. Summarize the points Paul makes and be prepared to discover how this week's passage fits into Paul's argument.

**God's gospel of grace was unknown to man. vv. 1-3**

**Apart from God's love mankind is desperately ignorant.**

When was the gospel of grace unknown to man?  
How did Joe describe the role and status of an heir?  
What do we receive as heirs of God?

How does God's love rescue us from ignorance?  
How does a person become a biblical heir?  
How does this status change how we live?

The next section gives us instructions and insights into how we should live in light of the Law and being in Christ.

**God's gospel of grace is revealed to man. vv. 4-5**

**God's love for mankind is divinely initiated.**

What was the appropriate time and what happened?  
Why does Paul select these details to highlight?  
What had to happen for us to become adopted children?

What does Paul say about the Son of God?  
What does it mean to be redeemed from the Law?  
What is the significance of the word "son" in these verses?

The next section gives us instructions and insights into how we should live in light of the Law and being in Christ.

**God's gospel of grace defines unconditional love. vv. 6-7**

**God's love for mankind is deeply intimate.**

What do we receive as sons that were not possible before?  
What does it mean to be indwelt by the Spirit?  
What is the difference between a religion and a relationship?

Describe the changes brought about via adoption.  
What do we learn about our relationship with God here?  
Talk about the practical implications of this distinction.

**Conclusion**

**In eternity there will only be two kinds of people –**

1. **There will be those who cry with never-ending regret.**
2. **Then there will be those who cry 'Abba! Father!'**

**This week examine your heart and ask yourself, "Which one will I be?"**

What is your concept of "Abba?"  
Are you secure in your relationship with Him?  
How can you go about helping them come to know Him?

How can you foster your understanding of the Father?  
Is there anyone in your life you fear don't know God?  
What can you do to grow in your relationship with Him?

**Prayer**

*Thank God for allowing us to partner with Joe and his family and they serve Him in Dubai. Ask God to continue to work through Joe. Praise the Father for the amazing work He is doing at TCBC. Praise Him for lives being changed, marriages strengthened and healed, and true biblical community occurring. Thank Him for choosing and loving us as our Father.*