

CHRISTMAS 2023, #1

YOU ARE FAMILY! GOD'S GRACIOUS WORK OF CHRISTMAS

December 16–17, 2023 // Sermon Study Guide // Pastor Mark Henry, D.D.

Text: Galatians 4:1–7

Truth Points: What truth was covered this weekend in the message?

1. Read Galatians 4:1–7. What is the main point of Galatians? What is the historical context of this passage and why is it important?
2. How does Galatians 2:1–3 describe our natural state? How does Galatians 2:4–7 describe our change? Consider John 1:12.
3. Why was timing important in God's program according to verse 4? Are there principles to learn from this? If so, what?
4. What is God's plan according to verse 4? How does this relate to the historical working of God and the present celebration of Christmas? When is this to be a test according to 1 John 4:1–5?
5. God has a two-fold purpose for the incarnation. What are they according to verse 5? Describe them and how they impact us today.
6. What is biblical adoption and how does it impact us now and in the future?
7. How is the Trinity found in this passage? Is it significant? If so, why?

8. Should this truth of adoption effect church relationships? Consider the following passages and write a note about church relationships:

- 1 John 3:10
- 1 Timothy 5:1–2
- Galatians 6:10

Reflection Points: How does God want me to think, feel, act, and speak because of this truth?

1. Am I part of the family of God? Have I been born again? Is my faith in Jesus or something else or someone else?
2. Has the truth of my adoption changed my spirit? Why or why not? Do I resemble most people just indifferent to this grace? How does the Spirit intend to make me love God more through His adoption of me?
3. How is the cry of the Spirit in a believer different than the cry of the world? What do others notice about my cry? Does it reveal what I think? Why or why not?

Action Points: What am I going to do **this week** because of this truth?

1. **Read** 2 Corinthians 9:15 and Romans 3:23 in preparation for next weekend.
2. **Reflect** on Galatians 4:4–7 every day.
3. **Memorize: Galatians 4:4–5** (NASB95) — But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
4. **Ask** yourself three questions every day:
 - How do I go from “knowing” I am adopted to “feeling” I am adopted?
 - Is my affection for God growing?
 - Does my cry reflect the cry of the Holy Spirit?
5. **Share** with another follower of Jesus what you are learning about God, the Bible, Jesus, etc. Help them follow Jesus better in 2023.