

Galatians 4:1-7

“Hope Under The Sun, Part 1”

Hevel/ Under the sun / Striving after the wind

Ecclesiastes 7:29— “See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes”

Hamster wheel of life trying to find the gain

Ecclesiastes 3:1— “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”

The One who sits above the sun can see those who live under the sun.

Christmas — Hope Under the Sun

Easter — Victory Under the Sun

1. Illustration of our condition (1-3)

- slave under a guardian
- We are enslaved to the principles of this world
- Until a time set by his father
- “But how can a bondage to the law be called a bondage to evil spirits? Is Paul suggesting that the law was an evil design of Satan? Of course not. He has told us that the law was given to Moses by God not Satan, and mediated through angels (3:19), good spirits, not bad. What Paul means is that the devil took this good thing (the law) and twisted it to his own evil purpose, in order to enslave men and women. Just as during a child’s minority his guardian may ill-treat and even tyrannize him in ways which his father never intended, so the devil has exploited God’s good law, in order to tyrannize men in ways God never intended. God intended the law to reveal sin and to drive men to Christ; Satan uses it to reveal sin and to drive men to despair. God meant the law as an interim step to man’s Justification; Satan uses it as the final step to his condemnation. God meant the law to be a stepping-stone to liberty; Satan uses it as a cul-de-sac, deceiving his dupes into supposing that from its fearful bondage there is no escape.” — John Stott

When the fullness of time had come:

- a time that was set before
- When history had ran its course to its intended time

2. Initiation from God (4-7)

- God sent for His Son
 - Born of a woman (Genesis promise)
 - Under the law He created
 - To redeem those under the law (fulfilled perfectly)
 - To provide adoption as sons (from slaves to sons)
- God sent forth His Spirit
 - Into our hearts
 - We cry out “Abba! Father!”

3. Invitation to consider (8-9)

- Why turn back to being a slave? There is no hope

Small group discussion

1. Our Condition — Slaves Under the Sun

Paul says we were “enslaved to the principles of the world,” like children under a guardian.

Where do you see people today stuck on the “hamster wheel of life,” striving after the wind? How does Ecclesiastes 7:29 help explain why we fall into this cycle?

2. The Law: God’s Good Gift, Twisted by the Enemy

John Stott explains how Satan takes God’s good law and uses it to drive people to despair instead of to Christ.

Have you ever experienced the law (or moral expectations) in a way that produced guilt or despair rather than hope? What helped redirect your heart back to grace?

3. The Fullness of Time — God’s Intervention

“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son...”

How does the truth that God acted at the perfect moment—above the sun, seeing all of history—shape your trust in Him for what you’re facing right now?

4. From Slaves to Sons — Adoption and Identity

Galatians 4 says God not only redeemed us but sent His Spirit so we cry “Abba! Father!”

What does it practically look like to live as a son rather than a slave? Where are you tempted to “turn back” to old forms of spiritual slavery (v. 9)?