

**Slaves to the World,  
Saved through Christ**

# Galatians 4:3-5,7-9

3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might **redeem** those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

# Galatians 4:3-5,7-9

8 However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the **weak and worthless** elemental things, to which you desire to be **enslaved all over again?**

# Galatians 4:3-5,7-9

- Life outside of Christ = bondage
- Life inside of Christ = freedom but not without danger

# Life Outside of Christ

Ecclesiastes 3:18-19

**18** I said [g]to myself concerning the sons of men,  
“God has surely tested them in order for them to see  
that they are but beasts.” **19** For the fate of the sons  
of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As one  
dies so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same  
breath and there is no advantage for man over beast,  
for all is vanity. **20** All go to the same place. All  
came from the dust and all return to the dust

# Life Outside of Christ

Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.

- Reality of sin
  - The devil doesn't want us to see sin this way

# Life Outside of Christ

Ephesians 4:17-19

**17** So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, **18** being darkened in their understanding, [m]excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; **19** and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

# Life Inside of Christ

## Galatians 3:5,7

5 so that He might **redeem** those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.  
7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.



# Danger for those in Christ

Galatians 3:9b

...how is it that you **turn back** again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be **enslaved all over again**?

- There is a danger of losing sight of Christ

# Danger for those in Christ

- Enemy tactics
  - focus on greed/selfishness to separate us from God (Ephesians 4:17-19)
  - Leads to being caught up/enslaved again

# Danger of “Turning Back”

Peter: Luke 22:54-62

**54** Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. **55** And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. **56** Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” **57** But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.”

# Danger- “Turning Back”

Luke 22:54-62

**58** And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” **59** And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” **60** But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

# Peter: What we can learn

- Too focused on himself and his image
- Got caught up in his circumstance: heat of the moment
- **He “turned back”** to the weak and worthless elemental things (Gal 3)
- Matthew 10:33

# **Danger for those in Christ - image/self**

**Nicodemus** - Went to Christ secretly at night

**John 3:1-2**

**1** Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; **2** this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

# **Danger for those in Christ - image/self**

**Nicodemus** - Went to Christ secretly at night

**39** Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight.

# Joseph of Arimathea

**John 19:38**

**38** After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but **a secret one for fear of the Jews**, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body.

- Initially his fear of others made him afraid to openly support Christ



# Joseph of Arimathea

**Matthew 27:57**

**57** When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself **had also become a disciple of Jesus.**

- Overcame his fear of others to follow Christ

# **Danger for those in Christ - Excessive Righteousness**

**Ecclesiastes 7:16,20**

**16** Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?

**20** Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.

## Pharisees - Matthew 23:5

5 But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments.

- “Excessive” righteousness: caused them to focused too much on gaining the approval of man rather than God -- very selfish
- Similar to Peter who denied Christ because they worried about his image

# Moses

## Exodus 4:10-11,13

**10** Then Moses said to the Lord, “Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither [g]recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” **11** The Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?...**13** But he said, “Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will.”

- Had a ‘woe is me’ mentality; doubted his speaking abilities.

# Danger - Frustration

Romans 7:22-24

**22** For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. **23** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **24** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

# Solution - Love of God

**Romans 7:25, 8:1**

**25** Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

**8:1** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

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