

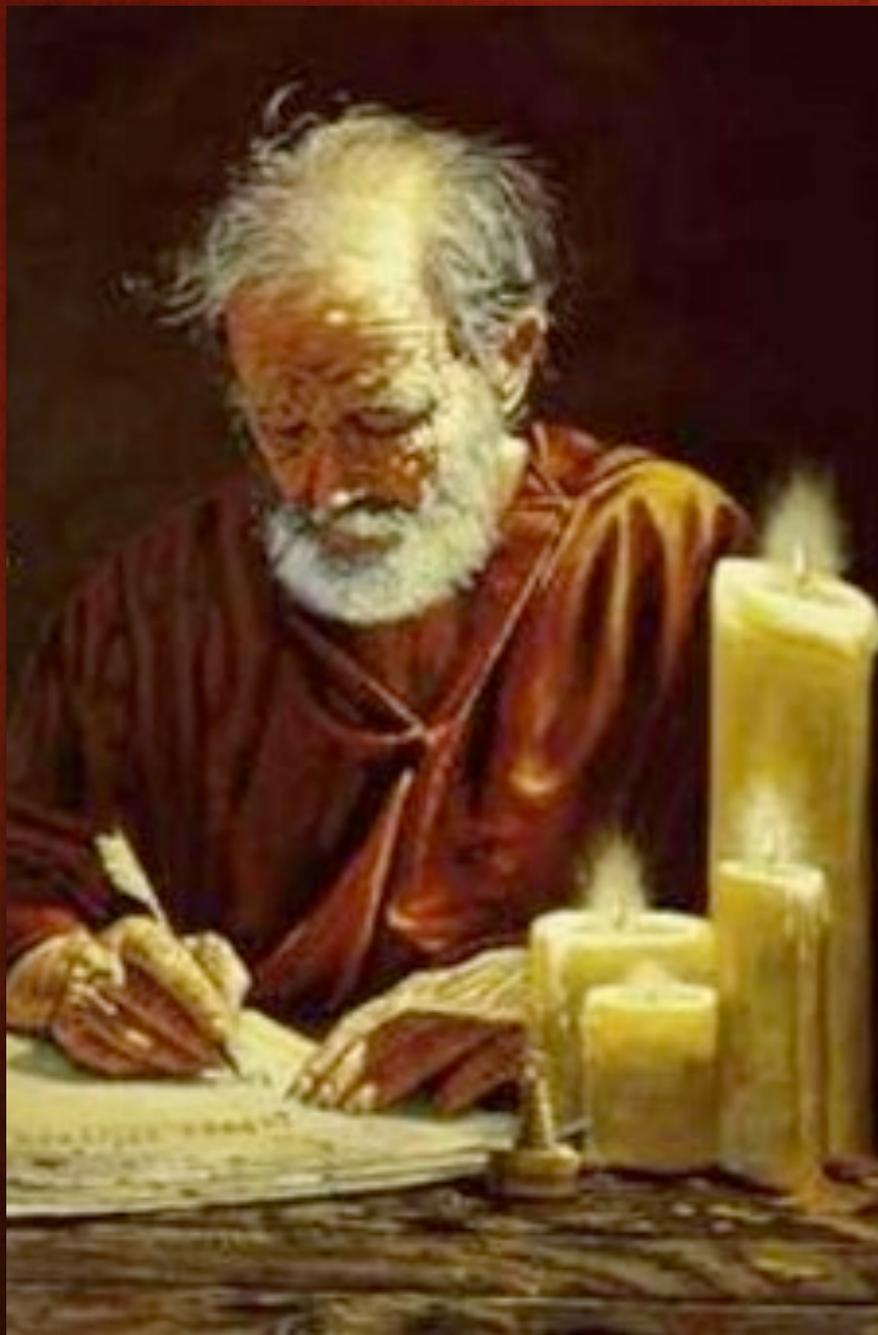


The
EPISTLE To The
GALATIANS

**In Christ We Are Adopted As Sons & Heirs
of God Through Christ! – (3:26–4:7)**

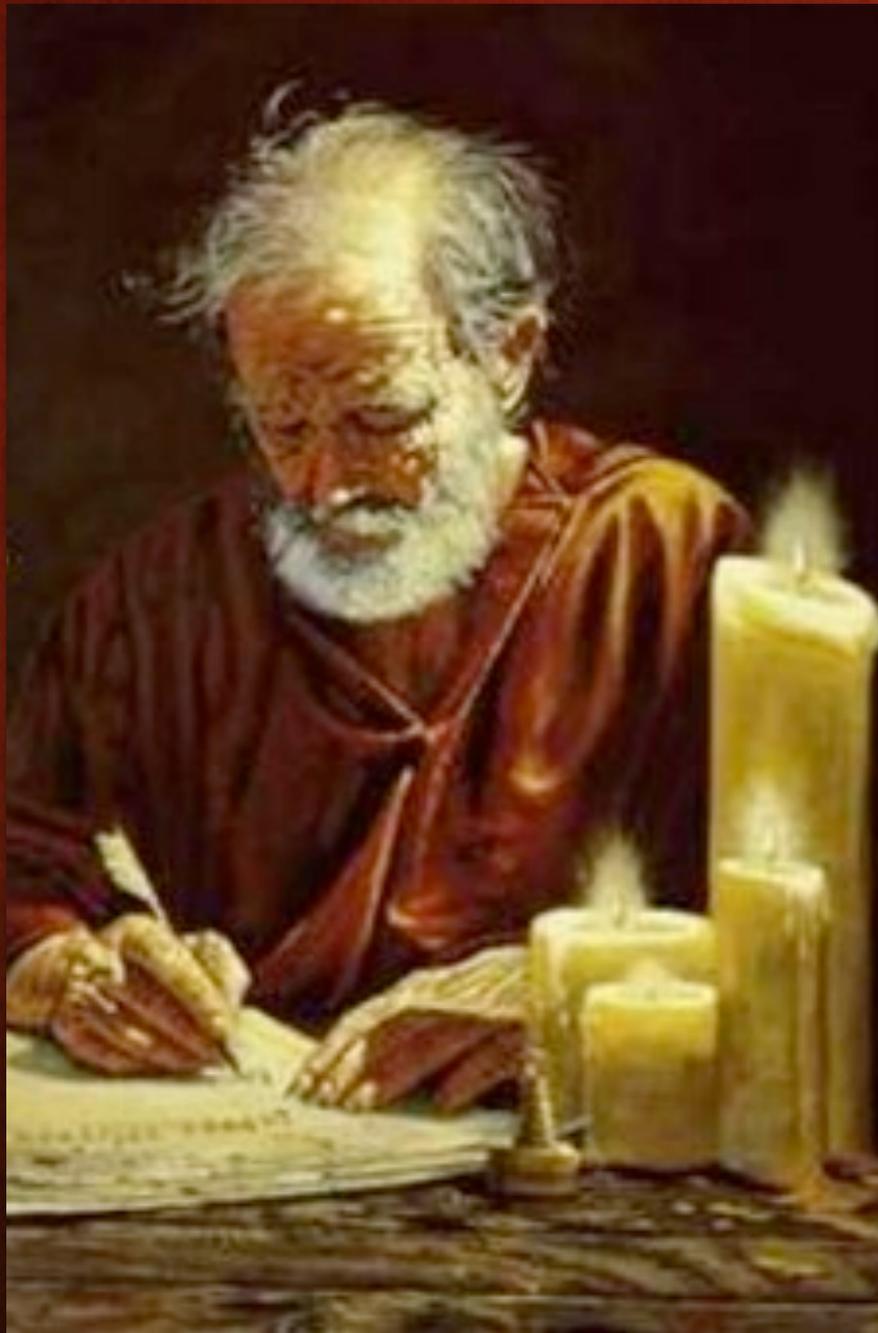
GALATIANS

A Perverted Gospel Is No Gospel At All



- **In his epistle to the churches of Galatia, Paul:**
 - * **Opposed those teaching that Gentiles must be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses.**
 - * **Presented a series of arguments contending that we are justified by faith in Christ & not by the “works” of the Law of Moses.**

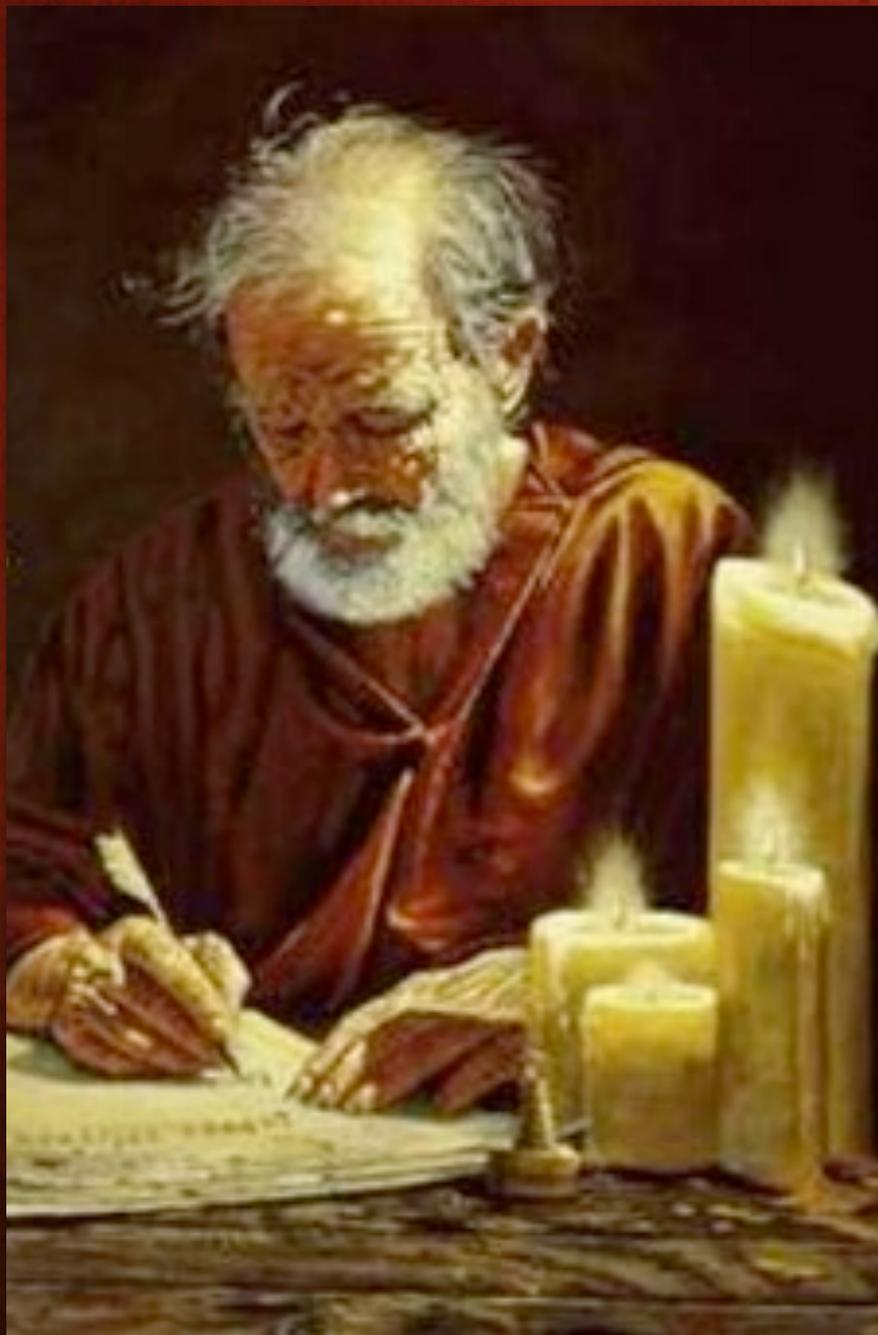
Promise of Abraham Not Through The Law But Through Faith In Christ! – (3:1–29)



● Chapter 2 Paul Argues autobiographically that:

- * His apostleship was independent of the other apostles - The gospel he preached was directly from the Lord - 1:11,12
- * He was an apostle before he met the other apostles - 1:13-17
- * When he did meet them he was received as an equal 1:18-2:10
- * He even found it necessary to rebuke Peter - 2:11-21

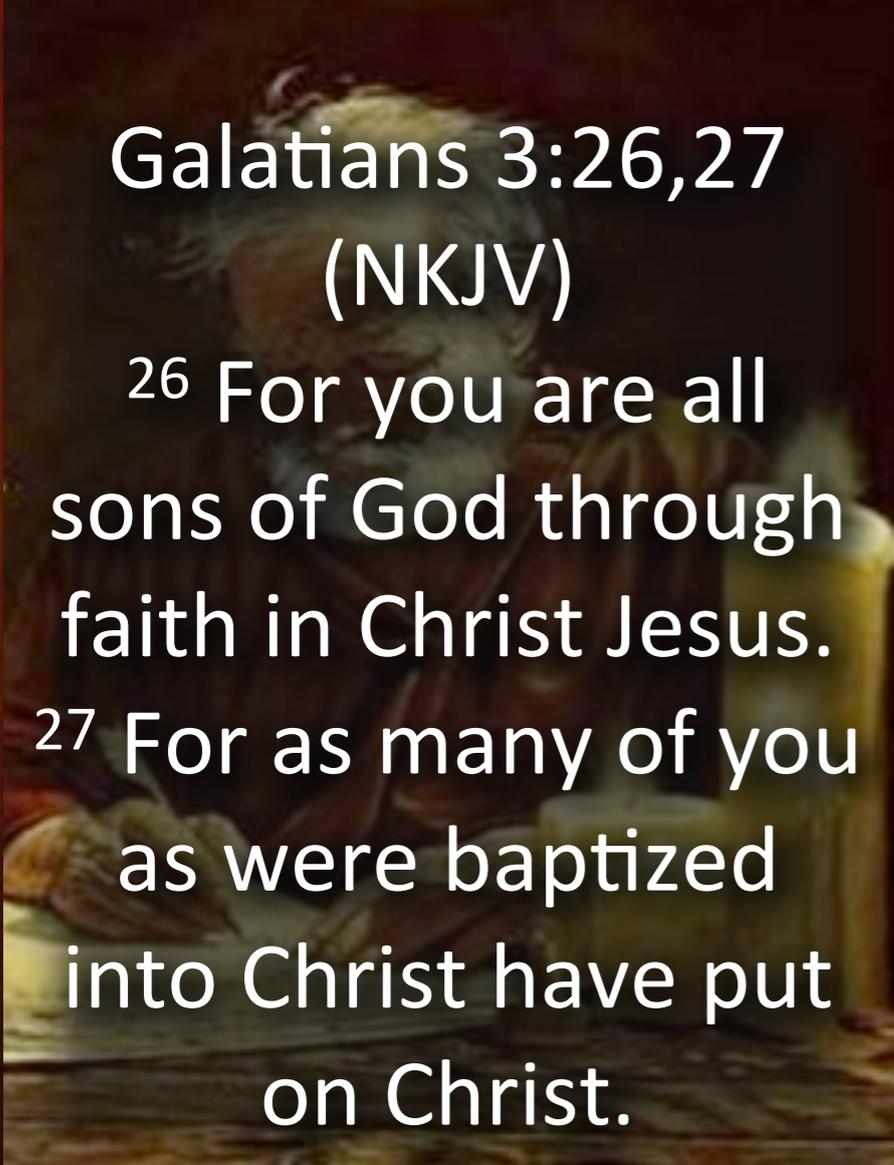
Promise of Abraham Not Through The Law But Through Faith In Christ! – (3:1–29)



- **Chapter 3 Paul defends the gospel he preached**
 - * By Their Experience (3:1-5)
 - * By The Example Of Abraham (3:6-9)
 - * By The Inability of the Law to Justify the Sinner (3:10-12)
 - * By The Work Of Christ (3:13-14)
 - * By Christ Being The Fulfillment of the Seed Promise to Abraham (3:15-18)
 - * By The Purpose Of The Law to Christ through whom they are released from sin - (3:19-25)

In Christ We Are Adopted As Sons & Heirs of God Through Christ! – (3:26–4:7)

Sons of God By Faith In Christ Jesus (26-29)



Galatians 3:26,27
(NKJV)

²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- **“You are all sons of God”** – their current status IN CHRIST.
 - * Under the dispensation of Law, (vs 24,) the Law was a discipling pedagogue, and those under its supervision were regarded as children.
 - * Now that Christ had come, the Galatian believers were adult sons through faith and were no longer under a Jewish slave-guardian.
 - * Why would they seek to revert to their inferior status?

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- **“You are all sons of God”** – their current status IN CHRIST.
- **“Through faith in Christ”** – Not through the Law of Moses.
 - * The same kind of faith Abraham had - 3:8,9,14; Rom 4:1-3, 12, 19-25; James 2:14-26
 - * Saving faith comprised of “conviction, trust & submission (obedience)” Heb 11:6; Rom 10:14-17

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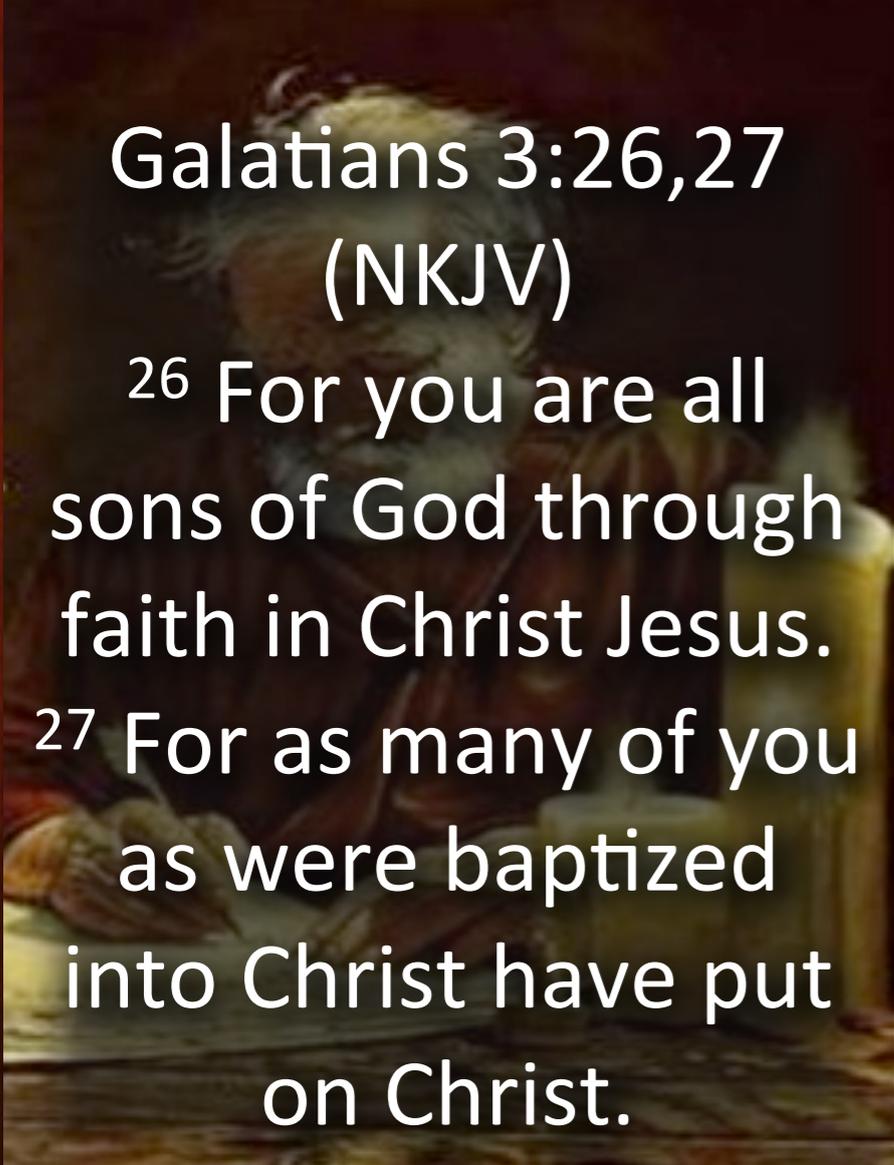
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- **“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ”** – no more & no less
 - * All who have been baptized into Christ are “sons of God by faith” - Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-6; 1 Cor 12:13
 - * Many have tried to get around the true teaching of this passage by turning it into a “dry” baptism (i.e., Holy Spirit baptism)
 - * Such is the result of “theological bias” & not sound Biblical exegesis! (See baptism in Acts; baptism in the name of Jesus)

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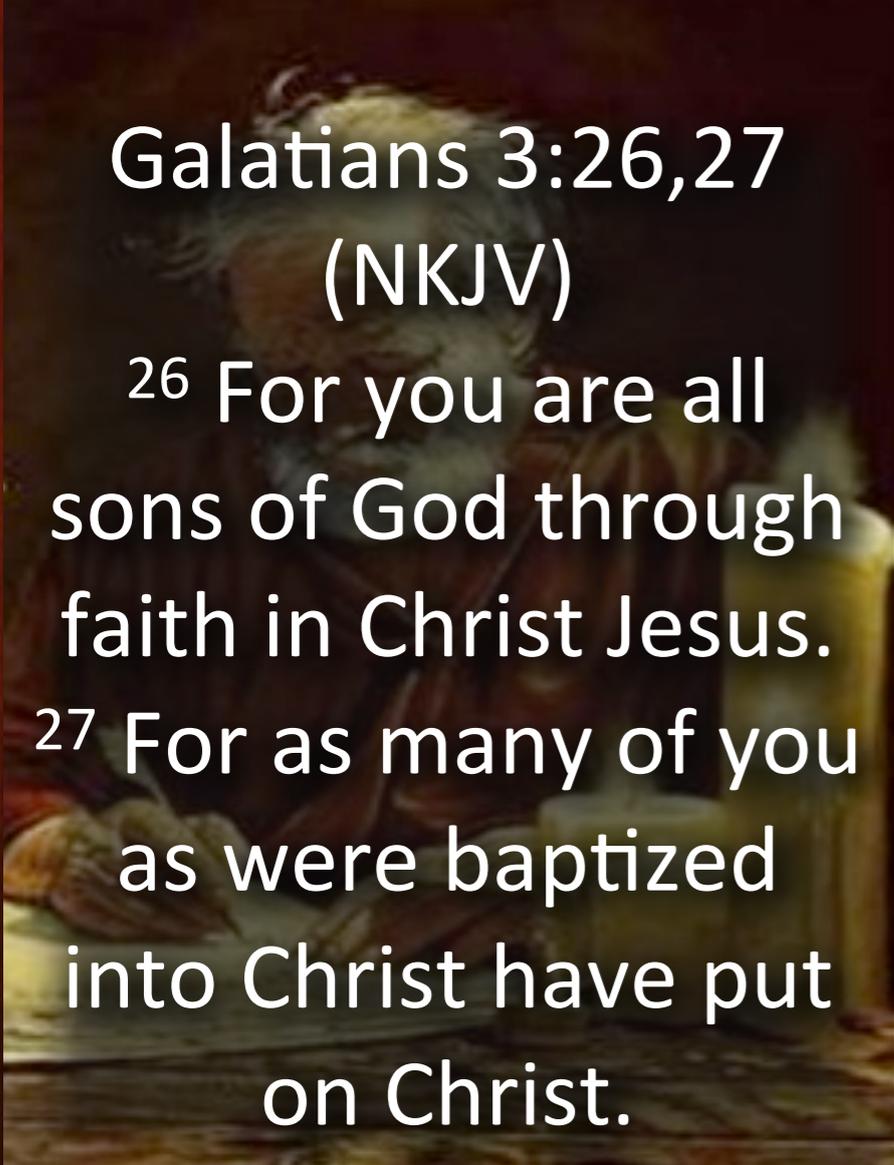
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- **“Have put on Christ”** – clothed themselves - figuratively of taking on the characteristics, virtues, intentions, etc.
- * Rom 13:14 — But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.
- * Eph 4:24 — and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
- * Col 3:10 — and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

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- **“Have put on Christ”** – clothed themselves - figuratively of taking on the characteristics, virtues, intentions, etc.
 - * In context, to be like Him in standing - becoming objects of divine favor.
 - * In the Roman society when a youth came of age he was given a special toga which admitted him to the full rights of the family and state and indicated he was a grown-up son.
 - * Who would want to don again the old clothing?

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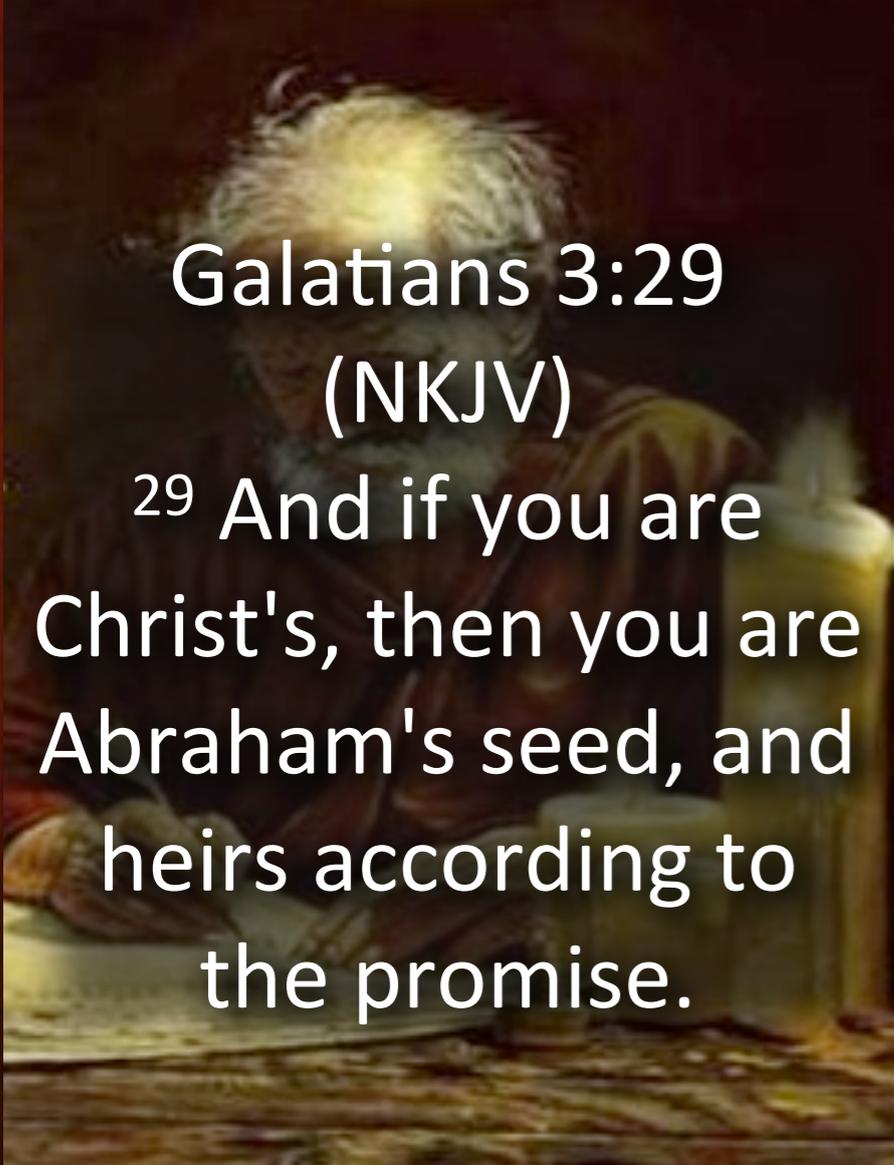
Galatians 3:28
(NKJV)

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- **We “are all one in Christ Jesus” –**
All believers equal in standing before God in Christ - Col 3:11; (*not teaching equality in function - 1 Cor. 12; 14:34; 1 Tim 2:12*)
 - * A believing Jew is not more privileged before God than a believing Gentile.
 - * A believing slave does not rank higher than a believing free person in standing before God;
 - * A believing man is not superior to a believing woman in value or importance.

In Christ We Are Adopted As Sons & Heirs of God Through Christ! – (3:26–4:7)

Sons of God By Faith In Christ Jesus (26-29)



Galatians 3:29
(NKJV)

²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

● If you are Christ's –

- * Therefore you are "Abraham's seed," which is tantamount to saying, you are "heirs according to the promise" (not "by the law," Ga 3:18); for it was to Abraham's seed that the inheritance was promised (Ga 3:16).
- * Thus he arrives at the same truth which he set out with (Ga 3:7).
- * Paul makes a similar argument in Romans 9, just from a different perspective, (*also consider Eph 1*).

In Christ We Are Adopted As Sons & Heirs of God Through Christ! – (3:26–4:7)

An Heir Receives His Inheritance Through Christ & not the Law - (4:1-7)

● The Heir as a Child

Galatians 4:1-3
(NKJV)

¹ Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, ² but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

- * To illustrate the status of those who lived under the Mosaic Law, Paul reminded the Galatian believers of certain characteristics of an heir as a minor child (nēpios, “infant, young child”; in contrast with huios, “son,” in 3:7, 26).
- * Though by birthright he owned the whole estate, nevertheless he was kept in subservience like a slave in that he enjoyed no freedom and could make no decisions.

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- * In fact the heir as a child was under guardians (epitropous, different from the paidagōgos in 3:24-25) who watched over his person, and trustees who protected his estate.
- * This was true until he came of age. Under Roman law the age of maturity for a child was set by his father and involved a ceremonial donning of the toga virilis and his formal acknowledgement as son and heir.

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An Heir Receives His Inheritance Through Christ & not the Law - (4:1-7)

- **The Heir as a Child**

“The last verse of chapter 3, Paul speaks of heirs He now shows why the bondage of the Jewish law preceded the gospel. Even an heir is not free when a child. It is needful that he be controlled, even as though he were a servant. . . .

Johnson's Notes on the New Testament.

Galatians 4:1-3
(NKJV)

³ Even so we,
when we were
children, were in
bondage under
the elements of
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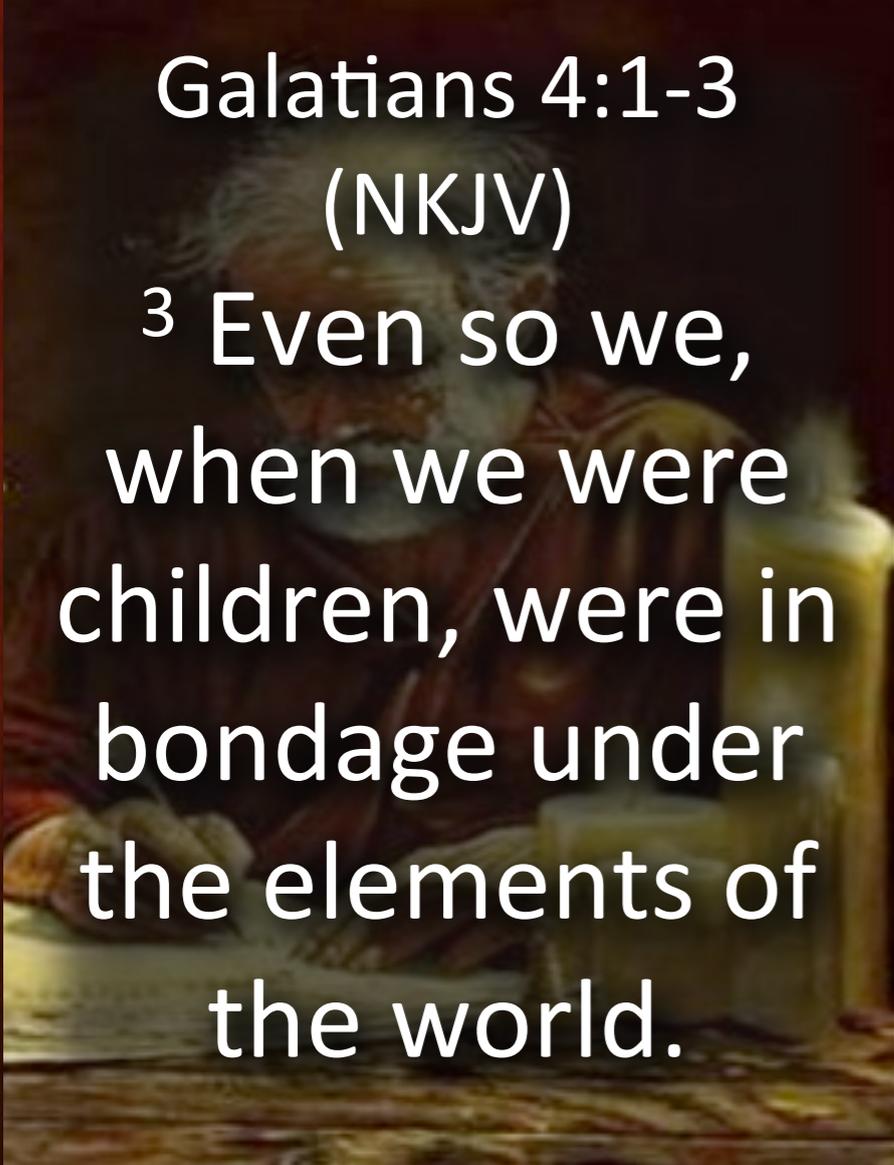
- **The Heir as a Child**

“ . . . He is kept (verse 2) under tutors and governors. The tutors had charge of his person; the governors were stewards who managed his estate. These had control until the time appointed by his father in his will, that he should be free and have full charge.”

Johnson's Notes on the New Testament.

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● The Heir as a Child

- * They were in bondage under the elements of the world - Ga 4:3
- * The word rendered elements (stoicheion), denotes basic fundamentals. The Jewish system was a system adapted to their nonage - to a state of childhood.
- * They were treated as children under tutors and governors
- * The Law held those under it in bondage - it could not provide the inheritance! - (3:10; Romans 7)

Galatians 4:1-3
(NKJV)

³ Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

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An Heir Receives His Inheritance Through Christ & not the Law - (4:1-7)

Galatians 4:4 (NKJV)

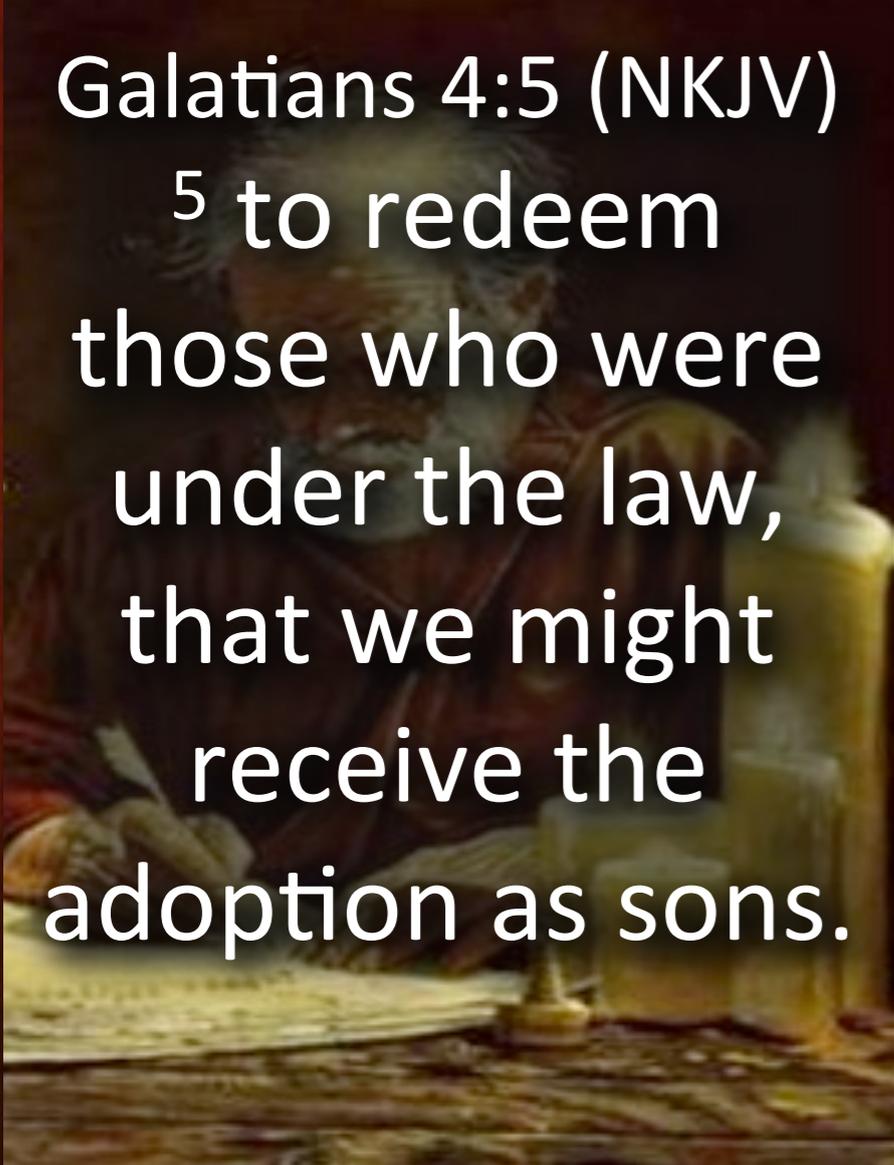
4 But when the
fulness of the
time had come,
God sent forth
His Son, born of a
woman, born
under the law,

● The Heir Actual In Christ

- * The time appointed by the Father. See verse 2.
- * Made of woman, (John 1:14; Heb 2:9ff)
- * **Made under the law.** Not only by taking upon himself the nature of humanity, but also subjecting himself to our legal conditions.

In Christ We Are Adopted As Sons & Heirs of God Through Christ! – (3:26–4:7)

An Heir Receives His Inheritance Through Christ & not the Law - (4:1-7)



Galatians 4:5 (NKJV)
5 to redeem
those who were
under the law,
that we might
receive the
adoption as sons.

● The Heir Actual In Christ

- * Those under bondage need redemption in order to secure freedom.
- * Paul has shown that those under the law were in bondage.
- * From this bondage Christ came to redeem us. cf 3:13.
- * That we might receive. This “adoption of sons” is bestowed as a gift.
- * We cannot have it, and still be in bondage.

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Galatians 4:5 (NKJV)

⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

In Christ We Are Adopted As Sons & Heirs of God Through Christ! – (3:26–4:7)



- **To seek justification by the works of the Law is to return to being but a child under a guardian still in bondage to basic elements of religion**
- **To be justified by an obedient faith in Christ is to receive the inheritance as sons of God**

Are You A Child of God By Faith In Christ Jesus?

GALATIANS

Charter of Freedom

Galatians 3:26–29 (NKJV)

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

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Charts by Don McClain

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West 65th Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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