

A serene sunset scene over a beach. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds in shades of orange, pink, and purple. Several seagulls are captured in flight, scattered across the upper half of the frame. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright, golden glow over the ocean and the sandy beach. The waves are gentle, with white foam washing onto the shore.

FREEDOM

A STUDY IN GALATIANS

Super Bowl Fever May Sideline Record 17.2 Million Workers on Monday

LOWELL, Mass., Jan. 31, 2019 — A new survey commissioned by The Workforce Institute at Kronos Incorporated and conducted by The Harris Poll estimates that 17.2 million¹ employed U.S. adults may miss work the day after Super Bowl LIII – making Monday, Feb. 4 the largest-ever anticipated day of Super Bowl-related absenteeism since The Workforce Institute at Kronos began tracking this phenomenon in 2005.²

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Paul's Point

- Galatians 2:16 – we are “not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ...”
- Galatians 3:10 – “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.’”
- Galatians 3:22 – “But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.”

4:1-7 Not a Slave, but a Son

Paul's analogies:

- Galatians 3:18 – Inheritance
 - Inheritors are not *receivers* until an appointed time
- Galatians 3:25-26 – Tutor
 - Students are not *graduates* until an appointed time
- Galatians 3:29-4:2 – Heirs
 - Heirs/Minors are not *adults* until an appointed time
- Galatians 4:5 – Adoption
 - Orphans are not *adopted* until an appointed time

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has two toddler daughters with his wife, Priscilla Chan.



Facebook

Zuckerberg and Chan [have two daughters together](#). The couple's first daughter, Maxima, was born [in 2015](#); their second daughter, August, was born [two years later in 2017](#). Zuckerberg's net worth [totals \\$62.3 billion](#), making him the eighth-richest person.

4:1-7 Not a Slave, but a Son

Paul's analogies:

- All four have a “before” and an “after”
- All four provide limits and guardianship “before”
- All four provide blessings and new life “after”

4:1-7 Not a Slave, but a Son

Paul's explanation:

- 4:3 – prior to our inheritance, we were under the curse of “the elements of the world” revealed by the Law
- 4:4-5 – God sends His son to redeem us (purchase us from the slave market) from the Law (our own efforts to be godly), and make us His sons/daughters by faith
- 4:6-7 – By faith, sent into our hearts, He is our “Abba!”

Romans 8:15-17

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...”

4:8-10 Not a Son, but a Slave

Paul's explanation:

- 4:8 – you didn't know God, and walked in bondage
- 4:9 – you know God, and walked in freedom
- 4:9-10 – you know God, but are walking again in bondage

Contrasts of Law and Grace

Do It Yourself (Law)

- The law condemns the sinner
- The law says “do!”
- The law says “continue to be holy!”
- The law says “pay what you owe!”
- The law demands perfect obedience
- The law puts us under bondage

Done, by Christ (Grace)

- Grace redeems the sinner
- Grace says “it is done!”
- Grace says “it is finished!”
- Grace makes the sinner alive
- Grace says, “I forgive you all”
- Grace bestows and gives power to obey.
- Grace sets us in the liberty of the sons of God

Ourselves, Today

Appeasing God through our efforts

- Duty: “I better do something”
- Fear: “If I don’t do something...”

Excluding God through our efforts

- Past Experiences: “I must do something”
- Pride: “I can do something for myself”

Misunderstanding God through our efforts

- Guilt/Condemnation: “I shouldn’t have done something”

The Law and Grace

Ask yourself:

- In what ways am I abiding in the liberty of Christ?
- In what ways am I clinging to my own ways, my own mindset, my own emotions, etc.?

4:11-20 Paul's Passionate Concern

Paul:

- 4:11, 20 – Deeply concerned
- 4:12-15 – “How I was treated when you walked in the Spirit of grace”
- 4:16-18 – “How I was treated when you walked in the spirit of the Law”
- 4:19 – Deeply committed to the church
 - Brethren: 4:12, 28, 31; Children: 4:19

4:21-27 – Paul’s Biblical Illustration

Two Opposing Choices:

Hagar

Ismael, the son of slavery

Birth “according to the flesh”

Old Covenant

Mount Sinai

Present Jerusalem

Sarah

Isaac, the son of freedom

Birth, “through the promise”

New Covenant

Mount Zion

Heavenly Jerusalem

4:21-27 – Paul’s Biblical Illustration

4:27 – Paul quotes Isaiah 54:1

- His point: The things that are impossible in the flesh are possible through God’s promise

4:28-4:31– Paul’s Biblical Application

Paul:

- 4:28 – You are children of promise, by faith!
- 4:29 – That which is not of the promise will try and steal your liberty
- 4:30 – The promise, and the bondage to “do it yourself” cannot co-exist
- 4:31 – You are the children of promise, by faith!