

CHAPTER FOUR

was given four hundred and thirty years later, so as to make the promise of no effect.

18. For if the inheritance *is* by law, *it is* no longer by promise. But God granted *it* to Abraham by promise.

19. Why then the law? It was placed alongside *the promises* for the purpose of *defining* transgressions, until the Seed should come to whom *the promise* was made, having been ordained through angels in the hand of a mediator.

20. Now then, a mediator does not *act on behalf* of one; but God is one.*

21. *Is* the law then contrary to the promises of God? **MAY IT NEVER BE!** For if a law had been given that had the power to give life, *then* righteousness would indeed have been by law.

22. But the Scriptures have shut up all things under sin, so that by *the faith* of Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe.

23. Now before faith came, we were guarded under law, having been shut up unto the faith that was yet to be revealed.

24. In this way, the law was our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25. But since faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor;

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

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

28. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither bond 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*.

18 Rom. 4:14,
8:17
19 Ex. 20:19
John 1:17,
15:22
Acts 7:53
Rom. 4:15
20 Rom. 3:29
22 Rom. 4:11,
11:32
24 Rom. 10:4
Acts 13:39
26 John 1:12
Rom. 8:14
27 Rom. 6:3,
10:12, 13:14
28 John 10:16
Eph. 2:14
29 Gen. 21:10
Rom. 8:17
Heb. 11:18

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3 Col. 2:8
Heb. 9:10
4 Gen. 3:15,
49:10
Is. 7:14
Mat. 1:23,
5:17
Mark 1:15
Luke 2:27
John 1:14
Heb. 2:14
5 Mat. 20:28
John 1:12
Eph. 1:5
Heb. 9:12
6 Rom. 5:5
7 Rom. 8:16
8 Rom. 1:25
1 Cor. 12:2
Eph. 2:12
1 Thes. 1:9,
4:5
9 1 Cor. 8:3
Col. 2:20
Heb. 7:18
10 Rom. 14:5
11 1 Thes. 3:5
12 2 Cor. 2:5
13 1 Cor. 2:3

1. Now then, I say, for as long a time as the heir is a child, he is no different from a servant, *although* he be lord of all;

2. But he is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed beforehand by the father.

3. In the same way, when we were children, we were held in bondage under the elements of the world.

4. But when the time for the fulfillment came, God sent forth His own Son, born of a woman, born under law,

5. In order that He might redeem those who are under law, so that we might receive the *gift of sonship from God*.

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

7. So then, you are no longer a servant, but a son. And if a son, *you are* also an heir of God through Christ.

8. Now on the one hand, when you did not know God, you were in bondage to those who are not gods by nature.

9. But on the other hand, after having known God—rather, after having been known by God—*how is it that* you are turning again to the weak and impotent elements, to which you again desire to be in bondage?

10. You are *of* your own selves observing days, and months, and times and years.

11. I am afraid for you, lest somehow I have labored among you in vain.

12. Brethren, I beseech you, be as I *am*, for I also *am* as you *are*: you have not wronged me in anything.

13. Now you know that at first I preached the gospel to you in *the weakness of the flesh*;

* The full meaning of Verse 20 is as follows: "Now then, a mediator does not *act on behalf* of one [*that is, a mediator negotiates terms between two parties*]; but [*in respect to the promise of grace*] God is one [*that is, God acted unilaterally when He made His covenant with Abraham*]." In contrast, the covenant of law that He established with Israel was ordained through angels in the hand of a mediator, Moses.