

Title: Black or White – Galatians 4 1-11

Read:

¹⁻³Let me show you the implications of this. As long as the heir is a minor, he has no advantage over the slave. Though legally he owns the entire inheritance, he is subject to tutors and administrators until whatever date the father has set for emancipation. That is the way it is with us: When we were minors, we were just like slaves ordered around by simple instructions (the tutors and administrators of this world), with no say in the conduct of our own lives. ⁴⁻⁷But when the time arrived that was set by God the Father, God sent his Son, born among us of a woman, born under the conditions of the law so that he might redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law. Thus we have been set free to experience our rightful heritage. You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, "Papa! Father!" Doesn't that privilege of intimate conversation with God make it plain that you are not a slave, but a child? And if you are a child, you're also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance. ⁸⁻¹¹Earlier, before you knew God personally, you were enslaved to so-called gods that had nothing of the divine about them. But now that you know the real God—or rather since God knows you—how can you possibly subject yourselves again to those paper tigers? For that is exactly what you do when you are intimidated into scrupulously observing all the traditions, taboos, and superstitions associated with special days and seasons and years. I am afraid that all my hard work among you has gone up in a puff of smoke!

Think:

If I was talking to very young people I might sit here and talk about how the people Paul is talking to in this passage, used to have false gods before they accepted Jesus into their lives. I might very carefully and patiently explain that their false gods could easily be the same as something in our lives that completely takes over. I would explain that this could be something like computer games, football, tv or anything that we put before Jesus. Do I need to dance around you, like that, or should I ask you straight? As I sit here looking at this passage for us, I picture you as someone who can take what God has to say and does not need it watering down. Someone who when they make a decision to follow Jesus, decided that there is no turning back. Where ever you are in you walk with Jesus, whether you are looking, just started or running at full pelt, I know that Jesus loves that black and white attitude about him. You're not grey, when you decided to be for Jesus, you decided to be complete for Jesus. So no messing. What is getting in the way of you moving on with Jesus? You know what it is, so deal with it today.

Pray:

Father you know me and you know that there are things I put before you. Please help me remove their hold over me so I can know you more. Amen.

Action:

The actions pretty clear today. Get rid of the junk that's getting in the way. Bye.