“Sons of God Through Faith in Christ Jesus”

Intro: In our present text Paul continues to emphasize the true purpose of the Law, showing the desperate plight of the one who is under the ________ as opposed to the blessed state of the one who has been delivered from the Law having been justified by _________ in Christ Jesus.

I. “But before faith came, we were _________ in custody under the law, being _______ up to the faith which was later to be revealed.”

A. Here the word “faith” is a definite article that refers to something very specific, ... “The faith”, as the context holds, is that saving _________ by which we are justified, that is (v. 22) “faith ___ Jesus _________”.

B. Before faith in Christ was realized the Law acted as a guarded jail cell holding people _______________ ___ their _______.
   1. Before the faith came all mankind was collectively enclosed in sin and that, _______________ _______________.
   2. And mankind is _______________ shut up ___ _______.

C. The _______ kept all mankind hopelessly locked in sin and condemned under its severe weight _______________ the divinely appointed time when the Savior would be revealed.

II. “Therefore the Law has become our ____________ to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.”

A. The _______ has become our harsh, demanding, unyielding and _______________ disciplinarian (tutor, pedagogue) to lead us to _______________ who is gentle, whose yoke is easy, whose burden is light, who is _____________!

B. The Law, being a non-gracious and impossible task-master shows us that there is ___ _______________ ________ to be justified except by faith in Christ.

III. “But now that _________ has come, we are ____ longer under a ____________.

A. ____ longer are we under the __________-inducing pedagogue (the Law) for the perfect _______________ of God is revealed to us in His Son and He has cast out all fear!

IV. “For you are _____ __________ of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

A. John 1:12 says, “For as many as received Him, He gave the right to become __ __________ of God, even to those who _______________ in His name!”
   Being born again through faith in Christ, “the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that _____ ______ children ____ _________” (Rom. 8:16).

V. “For all of __________ who were baptized __________ Christ have clothed yourselves with ______________.”
A. In following the Lord in water baptism do by our own act that we are dead to sin and alive to Christ, that we have died with Him and arisen a new man in Him, that old things have passed away and all things become new, that the righteous demands of the Law no longer expose us but that ______ ______ _______ in the righteousness of Christ.

VI. “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are _______ _______ Jesus.”

A. Romans 10:9-13 says, “that ______ ______ confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and _______ in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; 10 for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in _______. 11 For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.’ 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; 13 for ______ _______ _______ call upon the name of the Lord _______ saved.”

B. Those who are saved by grace through faith are one in Christ – there is _______ within the church for “there is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ________ and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all” (Eph 4:4-6).

VII. “And if _______ _______ _______ ________, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.”

A. Though we were not born of the blood line of Abraham, yet as we have _______ in faith and _______ to Christ, God has called those things that are not as though they were and now, all who are justified by faith are in God’s sight descendants of Abraham and thus, are the heirs of God’s _________ to their spiritual father Abraham.

Finally then: Let us thoughtfully consider our _______ state of being when we were under the Law, before we came to the faith. There we were without hope and without a future, and day and night we faced nothing but _______ and ruin.

Then let us reflect upon what ______ has done _______. As He granted us the faith to believe in His Son so have we believed, and old things have passed away as all things have become new. No longer are we under the harsh pedagogue (the Law) but we are _______ the _______ of our loving God.

This being true, let us rejoice and be glad! Let us worship our Great God Almighty all the more for we are _______ of God _______ _______ in Jesus Christ!

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