“You Are … An Heir Through God”

Intro: As we open to chapter 4 the Apostle Paul contrasts the believers pre-cross “under the ________” condition with the believers post-cross “__________ in Christ” condition.

I. Paul employed an earthly illustration to ______________ a heavenly ____________.

A. In a wealthy ancient household even though a _______ was an _______ apparent, so long as he was a child who had not yet reached manhood, he did not differ at all from ___ __________ even though he was the owner of everything.

B. Even though the child was the rightful legal ___________ and in essence owner of everything, never the less he was ______________ the charge of guardians and managers.

1. These __________ had authority over the child. And that being the case they had certain __________ the child did not. ... This is why Paul would say that the __________ “does ________ _________ at all from the slave!”

C. These slaves would have the responsibility and authority over the child “__________ the date set by _____ _________.”

II. God is like the father and ____ are __________ the _______ and in the previous illustration.

A. Just as the child in the illustration was the son of the father and a promised heir of his father’s household, yet not having realized his sonship and the benefits thereof, so were __________ in bondage ____________ the elemental things of the world before we came to faith in Christ.

1. Without doubt the elemental things of the world refers to ________: sinful things. ______ “were held in ________________ under the (base and sinful) things of the world.”

B. Our own Carol J. Ruvolo writes, “... those ________________ by God for salvation ... are heirs-by-right although not yet __________-in-fact. They are ‘children’ who are, as yet, no different than slaves. As such they are temporarily bound by the elemental principles of the world, but ultimately _______________ to receive full rights, privileges, and responsibilities of sons on the date set by the father.”

III. __________ _________ ____ who were once under the bondage of sin by sending His Son.

A. “... when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth ______ ________, born ____ a _________, born ____________ the ________.”

1. It was necessary that the Savior be ______________ _________ for only the Holy God could fulfill the Law to perfection, and only God could make the infinite sacrifice required to ______________ for all the sin of mankind.
2. The Savior had to be ____________ for only man could pay the penalty due men for their sin, and only man could ____________ blood for without the shedding of ____________ there is no forgiveness of sin.

3. And the Savior had to be born ________________ the ________ so He could fulfill the Law perfectly on our behalf, that our sin would be upon His shoulders and that His ________________________ credited us.

B. Brothers and sisters, God gave His Son for us to redeem us, to save us out ____________ ____________ the unbearable weight and curse of the Law. “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). God redeemed us from under the curse of the Law ____________ ____________ as children adopted into His own household, joint-heirs with Jesus Christ!

IV. Being adopted by God as sons it is then by the ________________ of His Son who dwells in our hearts that it is ________________ to us that we are children of God.

A. Dear sisters and brothers, my family, God wants us to know that we are fully accepted into His ________________, and He wants us to sense it, to experience close ________________ relationship with Him for He sent forth the very Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying “Abba! ________________!”

1. “Abba” is an Aramaic diminutive of the word father. It was a term of endearment that would be spoken by adoring young children. It could be translated “_____________!” or “_____________!”

B. Those whom God has saved out from under the Law unto ________________ have no reason to live under the fear of the Law for the perfect love of God casts out all fear, but they are comforted by the ________________ relationship they have with their Heavenly Father for the Spirit within them bears witness of their heavenly ________________.

C. We who have come to Christ in faith believing are no longer slaves but ______ we are children ____ ________!

Closing: Through ____________ sovereign ________________ of you and me in eternity past, and though we were born in sin and under the curse of the Law of sin and death, yet did God through His Son redeem us unto Himself that we by His sovereign grace would pass from death to life, from slavery to sonship, unshakably sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise, a heavenly heir through the merciful grace of God. ____________, shall we try to merit our salvation or shall we give the ________________ of it all to God alone?

“You Are ... An Heir Through God” Glory ____ ________ alone!

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the will of our God and ________________, to whom be the ________________ forevermore. ________________.” (Gal 1:3-5)