**ADOPTED BY GOD - Walking in Accordance with Our True Identity**

**Read *Galatians* *3:23-4:7* (pp. 1166-1167 in pew Bible)**

* **Contextual** **Considerations**

Galatians received the gospel from Paul some time earlier, but after Paul left to preach elsewhere, different preachers came along telling Galatians that believing in the work of Christ is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and they also must submit to the ceremonial of regulations of the Law of Moses. Paul is fiercely objecting to this, saying that this represents a ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Key metaphor:** “adoption as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” This can also be rendered as “adoption to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

“The Greek word for adoption to sonship is a legal term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture.” - *NIV footnote on Gal. 4:5*

“[In the Bible] sonship is often metaphoric. The root of these metaphoric uses lies in the way sons achieved their identity.” - D. A. Carson, *Sonship*

The term “son of God” in the Bible is applied to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 3:38), the nation of \_\_\_\_\_\_ (Exod. 4:22-23), Israel’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Sam. 7:14), and angelic beings (Job 1:6). Of special interest is that it is applied to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 21:7).

The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. (***Revelation 21:7 CSB***)

Since Jesus is the true Son of God who walked in perfect accordance with the will of his Father, he is able to extend the benefit of “true sonship” to those who through faith \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* **The Main Text**

**3:23-26**, the Law was given to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Christ. Through faith, we become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**3:27-28** — regardless of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, everyone who is "clothed" with Christ received full rights in their relationship with God.

**3:29** — those who accept this through faith are the descendants of Abraham, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**4:1-3** — reverting to obtaining righteousness outside of Christ put us in a position like that of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**4:4-6** — God the Father sent his Son to achieve what we could not and fulfil the Law. Through faith in him, we receive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and are in such a close relationship with God that we were able to say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!