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## Paul's View on Christmas

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**Galatians 4:3-7** <sup>3</sup>So also, when we were children, we were enslaved under the basic principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive our adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, you are also an heir through God. BSB

### I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. The context of this passage is the **heresy** of legalism. Legalism is the belief that we can earn God's grace by our righteous acts. It believes that we also keep God's grace by a strict observance of do's and don'ts.
- B. Before Christ we were slaves to our **carnal** nature. V.3
- C. The Christmas story was the culmination of dozens of **prophecies** that had to be **fulfilled** in the coming of the Messiah. V. 4
- D. Even the Law abiding needed to be **adopted as sons** through the Messiah. V.5
- E. The **Holy Spirit** is the proof of our adoption, not our strict observance of the Law. V.6-7

### II. What can we learn from this?

- A. A **mature** believer will not be constantly looking for the mistakes of others but instead will be loving them, as a part of their spiritual family, to imitate Jesus Christ in their actions.
- B. **Knowing** the prophecies and the fulfillment of them in Christ will be something that we need to learn as part of sharing the story of Christ with others.
- C. We need to replace religion with **relationships**. Grace is the key to this.
- D. We need to learn **obedience** and **surrender** to the Holy Spirit.