

# Message Notes

## Boyz to Men. Slaves to Sons.

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

**Introduction** - *Spirit Houses? Are you kidding me?*

### Part One - A Legal Inheritance (Galatians 4:1-7)

#### a. Born with the status of slave (1-3)

*Future Owner with no current benefit (vr. 1)*

*Under Authority (vr. 2)*

*Application to us (vr. 3)*

*Who is the "we"?*

*Jews? Gentiles? All People?*

Galatians 3:23-29

*What are the "basic principles of the world"?*

#### b. Slaves to Sons. Boyz to Men. (4-7)

*One of the most important sentences in Galatians (vr. 4-5)*

<sup>4</sup>But when the time had fully come,

God sent his Son,

born of a woman,

born under law,

<sup>5</sup>to redeem those under law,

that we might receive the full rights of sons.

*The benefits and responsibilities of becoming a son (vr. 6-7)*

### Part Two - Implications of being an heir (Galatians 4:8-11)

#### a. Remember where you came from! (8)

#### b. Know who you are now! (9a)

#### c. And you are doing, WHAT?!?! (9b-11)

*What are the "basic principles of the world"?*

*(revisited)*

Colossians 2:8, 20, 16-17

**Gospel Application** - *Are you living like a son or a slave? What's your spirit house?*

### Galatians 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup>What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup>He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup>So also, when we were children, we were in slavery 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 law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. <sup>6</sup>Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. <sup>8</sup>Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup>But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? <sup>10</sup>You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup>I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

### Colossians 2:8

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

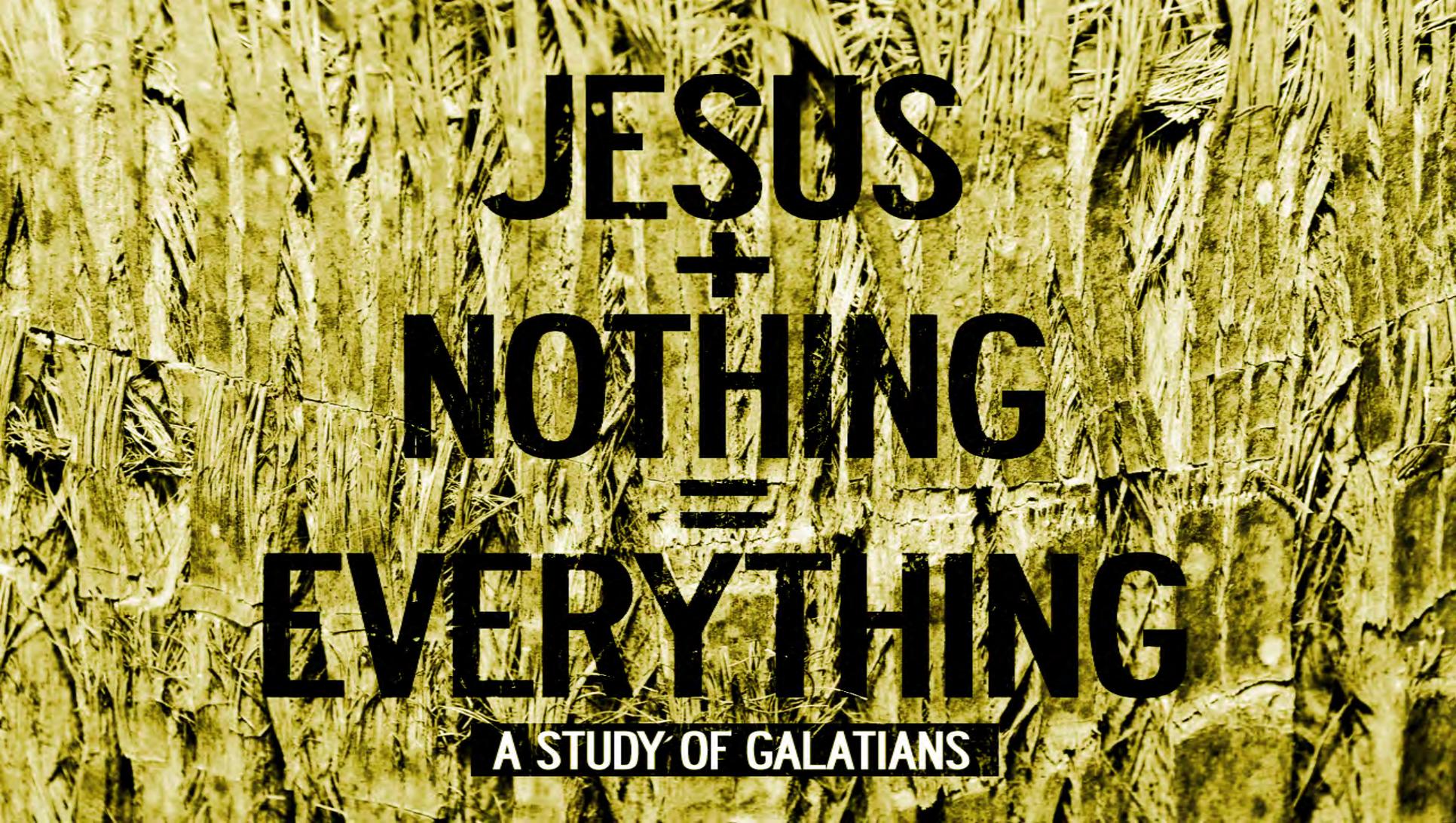
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<sup>20</sup>Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: <sup>21</sup>"Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?

### Colossians 2:16-17

<sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. <sup>17</sup>These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.





**JESUS  
+  
NOTHING  
=  
EVERYTHING**

**A STUDY OF GALATIANS**

## Galatians 2:19-20

<sup>19</sup>For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. <sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup>I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

## **Galatians 3:1**

<sup>1</sup>You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified...

## Galatians 3:6

<sup>6</sup>Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” <sup>7</sup>Understand, then,

that those who believe are children of Abraham. <sup>8</sup>The

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham:

“All nations will be blessed through you.” <sup>9</sup>So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

## Galatians 3:10

<sup>10</sup>All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”

<sup>11</sup>Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” <sup>12</sup>The

law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.”

## Galatians 3:13

<sup>13</sup>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” <sup>14</sup>He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit...

## **Galatians 3:23-25**

<sup>23</sup>Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

## Galatians 3:26-29

<sup>26</sup>You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have  
clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew  
nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are  
all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>If you belong to Christ, then  
you are Abraham's seed, and heirs  
according to the promise.

**This week's message:**

***"Boyz to Men. Slaves to Sons"***

*If you are a son, then start acting like a man*

**Galatians 4:1-11**

## Galatians 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup>What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup>He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup>So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world.

## **Galatians 4:1-11**

<sup>4</sup>But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

## Galatians 4:1-11

<sup>6</sup>Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*”

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<sup>8</sup>Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.

## Galatians 4:1-11

<sup>9</sup>But now that you know God – or rather are known by God – how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? <sup>10</sup>You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup>I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

# A New Illustration

A New Illustration

# *Legal Inheritance*





A New Illustration

*Legal  
Inheritance*

*Implications  
of being an  
heir*

# Part One – Legal Inheritance

## *a. Born with the status of slave*

### Galatians 4:1-3

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## FUTURE OWNER WITH NO BENEFIT

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*a. Born with the status of slave*  
**UNDER AUTHORITY**

**Galatians 4:2**

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“  
In Roman law the heir, until he came of age at fourteen, was under the control of a tutor, nominated by the father in his will; then, until he reached the age of twenty-five, he was under a curator, appointed by the *praetor urbanus*

~ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Galatians: a Commentary on the Greek Text*, page 192, quoting Justin (*Justinian, Inst. 1.22, 23*).



## Part One – Legal Inheritance

### *a. Born with the status of slave*

## APPLICATION TO US

### Galatians 4:3

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*What are the “basic principles of the world”?*

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*Who is the “we”?*

Three possibilities

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Gentiles

All People

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*What are the “basic principles of the world”?*

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*For now, it must include living life under Law (law), that is, wishing to obtain or maintain covenant promises through observance of the Law (law)*

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**b. Slaves to Sons. Boyz to Men.**

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## Galatians 4:5b

...that we might receive the adoption as sons. (NASB)

...so that we might receive adoption as sons. (ESV)

...that we might receive the adoption of sons. (KJV)

...that we might receive adoption to sonship.  
(NIV 2011)

## Part One - Legal Inheritance

### b. Slaves to Sons. Boyz to Men.

# THE BENEFIT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BECOMING A SON

## Galatians 4:6-7

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# Part Two - Implications of being an heir

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### a. Remember where you came from!

#### Galatians 4:8

<sup>8</sup>Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.

**Part Two – Implications of being an heir**  
**b. Know who you are now!**

**Galatians 4:9a**

<sup>9</sup>But now that you know God –  
or rather are known by God...

**Part Two - Implications of being an heir  
c. And you are doing WHAT?!?!**

**Galatians 4:9b-11**

how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? <sup>10</sup>You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup>I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

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*What are the “basic principles of the world”?*

Paul equates PAGANISM along with all of it's idol worship with following the Law of God in order to get or maintain a righteous standing before God!!

The temptation they faced, prompted by the Judaizing false teachers, was to doubt that Jesus Christ alone was sufficient for salvation. They were being told that it was necessary to add to their faith in Christ circumcision

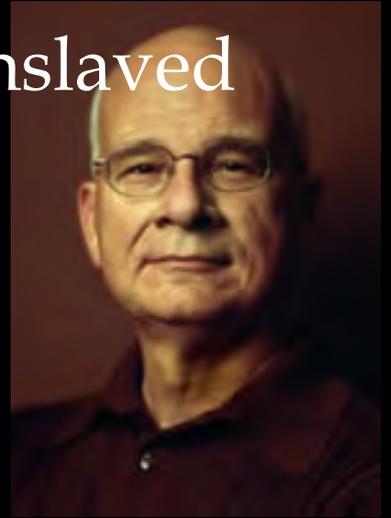
And other outdated ceremonies of the Mosaic law. Yet to do this, Paul said, would be no different than succumbing to their former subservient obedience to the elemental spirits of the world.

~ Timothy George, *Galatians*, vol. 30, page 315.



The basic principle of the world is that we need to save ourselves. We will worship what we think we need to fulfill ourselves, to give us “life”. And Paul is saying that any basic “thing” – money, sex, mountains and so on – can be worshiped, treated as a god, and become the basis of your religion. And whatever it is that we worship, we will be enslaved by.

For example, if we put our greatest hope in gaining wealth, we will be controlled and enslaved. We will be completely under the power of money. If we are not doing well



at gaining it, we will be devastated. And even if we do get “enough”, we will be disappointed, and seek more. If we treat things that are not gods as though they are, we become slaves to them spiritually. So how can a turning to works-salvation be considered an enslavement to false gods? There are an infinite number of different ways that we can choose to earn our salvation through works, even if we don't think of it as earning our salvation at all. But whatever we choose to use, whether it is achievement or morality or religion or serving our family, we turn that thing into a savior, and thus into a “god”.



Works-righteousness always creates idols; it is simply that the false saviors it produces – church attendance, ministry to others, Bible-reading – are things we would not normally think of as idols. We must feel the force of Paul’s emphasis on “enslavement”. If anything but Jesus is a requirement for being happy or worthy, that thing will become our slave master. Without the gospel, we must be under the slavery of an idol.

~ Tim Keller, *Galatians For You*, God's Word For You, p. 92-93



# Gospel Application

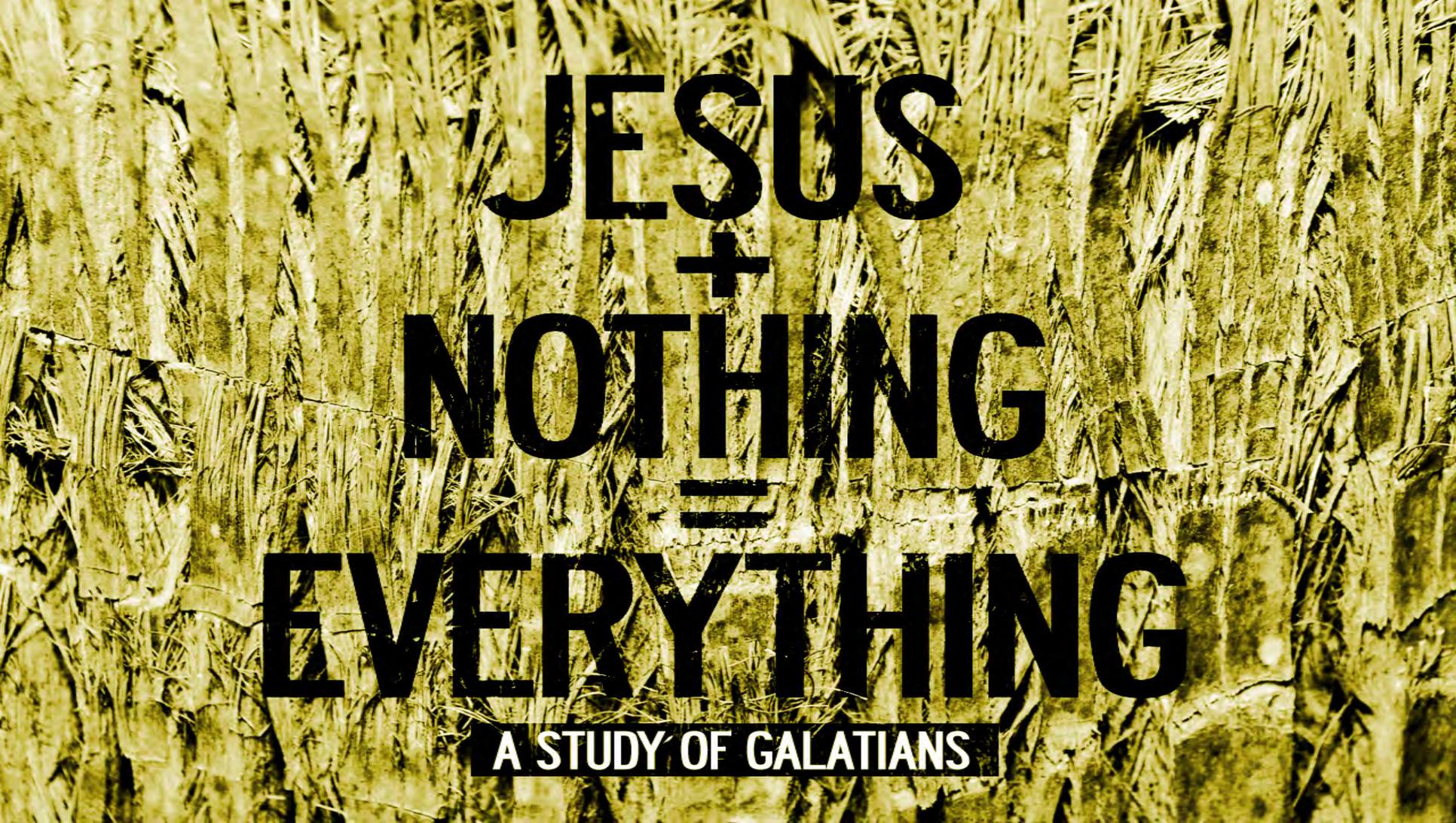
# Gospel Application

*Are you living like a son or a slave?*

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