

Galatians 4:4-7^{iv}

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

^{iv} **About the Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7**

The Galatians apparently believed that faith in Christ needed to be combined with an adherence to Mosaic law. So Paul claims that subjection to the law was only temporary and now is superseded by Christ's work.

Christ is a redeemer, one that sets us free. The Son is sent forth by God (implying his pre-existence) and "born of a woman" (4:4), indicating his participation in ordinary humanity.

Those who believe in the Son are adopted as God's children, making possible not merely a new status but also a new relationship with God. Paul makes a direct appeal to the Galatians' experience of "the Spirit of his Son" (v. 6). Through the Spirit, the believer addresses God as Jesus himself did—as a child and thus an heir to the promises made to Abraham.