

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7^{vi}

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. But 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.

^{vi} **About the Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-25; 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 So Paul claims that subjection to the law was only temporary and now is superseded by Christ's work. The law was like a "disciplinarian" (3:24), the slave assigned to keep watch over the children going to school.

What humanity is given in Christ is not a better instructor, but a redeemer who sets us free. The Son is sent by God and "born of a woman," 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.