

It has been a few weeks since our last sermon in Galatians, so allow me to share a quick review. The Galatians had been influenced by some false teachers to believe their salvation depended on obedience to the laws God gave through Moses. Paul was shocked that they would so quickly turn from the gospel of grace. He shared his amazing testimony in which by grace alone God turned him from being a persecutor of Christians to a proclaimer of Christ. He went on to explain how the laws of Moses put us under a curse. They promise life to the one who lives it all, but the only one to ever live it all was Jesus. Now in our passage today he continues to explain how all who place their faith in Christ are free from the curses of the law for they have the righteousness of Jesus. We are heirs of the blessing God promised to the world for those with faith in Jesus.

²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. Galatians 3:23 “Before faith came,” means the revelation of the new covenant in Christ and the infilling of the Spirit. The death and resurrection of Jesus was a revelation that the New Covenant was inaugurated. Until then the **Jewish people were held captive by the laws of God.** The Gentiles were no better off, for their consciences were a law for them (Romans 2:14,15ⁱ). Captivity of the law was not a new idea when Paul wrote this. Rabbi called it the hedge of the law that confined them and predicted that the Messiah would break down the hedge.ⁱⁱ

The imprisonment was to sin as declared in verse 23. Jesus told us that when we sin (not if) we are the servants of sin (John 8:34ⁱⁱⁱ). Knowing the law only made us aware of our sins. *Jesus Christ came as a Deliverer: and who will welcome and rejoice in a deliverer, unless he knows that there is something from which he needs to be delivered, unless he feels that he is in a wretched galling bondage, and that he cannot of himself burst his chains, that he cannot throw off his yoke? But when a man's eyes are opened to see the prison in which he is shut up, to see and feel the chains which are fast bound round his soul, and have eaten into it,—when he has learnt to see and to know that the pleasures, whatever they may be, of sin are only, like the fleshpots of Egypt, intoxicating drugs, given to him to deprive him of all sense of his captivity,—then will he long for a deliverer, and rejoice on hearing of his approach, and hail him when he comes into view, and follow him whithersoever he may lead.* (J. C. Hare, M.A.)^{iv}

By referring to “the coming faith” here, Paul can't mean one could not be saved by faith before Jesus came, for he has just used the example of Abraham in verses 6-9, 14, 18. The law with its sacrifices looked forward in faith that God would provide a way for the forgiveness and removal of sins. Until the cross, the covenant for Jews to obey the law remained in effect, even though faith in God was always the means of salvation.

Verse 23 means that Christ came to liberate us from sin and the law's demands having fulfilled them for us. He then sent His Spirit to guide us into holy living. He made it possible by paying our sin debt with His life, but that does not mean we can live as we please. The Spirit can be more demanding than the laws, but the Spirit also gives us a heart that desires to obey and joy in that obedience (1 Peter 1:8^v).

²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. Galatians 2:24 The law was the guardian of the Jewish people for the best possible life. The law gave rules and instructions until Christ came in order that they might look forward in faith to God's Messiah and provision for sins. Without the Spirit

directing them, there needed to be general guidelines to help them understand God's holiness and the need for a Deliverer.

Guardians of children in that day were usually foreign slaves who were educated. They taught the children and looked after them. At times they could even discipline them. They were like a surrogate parent until the child matured into the likeness of their real parents. In the same way the law was given to guide Israel to represent God to the nations. But it was never intended to be their master forever. The infilling of the Spirit brings about spiritual maturity to act like the Father from the heart rather than from a set of rules (Ezekiel 11:19^{vi}).

²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, Galatians 3:25
Jesus liberated us from being held under the captivity of the law! Now we have what the law pointed to, the sacrifice acceptable to God for our sins, Jesus, the Lamb of God (John 1:29^{vii}). The Spirit will rarely if ever contradict the moral laws, i.e.: murder, lying, coveting, adultery; but the other laws of society, health, and worship can still be a blessing to Jews of faith. However, they are not required (Galatians 2:14^{viii}). They are not held captive by them. Righteousness has always been by faith, but now we can see exactly how that was made possible in the cross.

We should realize that our old nature prefers laws over relationship. Laws are easier to follow than walking in the Spirit. If we live by laws, we only must obey in those specific areas the laws command, and we can often find a way around the rules. Walking in the Spirit requires our total commitment but is rewarded with the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23^{ix}). It is the freedom of living in accord with our transformed hearts. It is living how our Creator designed us to live.

The law without the Spirit can be easily twisted into something God never intended. The Pharisees were the most devout keepers of the law and from them came the Christian killer Saul and traits seen in the legalistic Pharisees who laid heavy burdens on the people (Matthew 23:4^x).

²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. Galatians 3:26
Everything Paul has written to this point leads to this conclusion. What follows points back to it. Jew and Gentile are adopted into the family of God through faith in what Jesus did and become one body, grafted together (Romans 11:17^{xi}; Ephesians 2:12-19^{xii}). This includes not only rights and inheritance but obligations as well. In Christ we are maturing to have the heart of the Father. That is what begins when we are born again. The new covenant is a matter of the heart rather than obedience to rules (Jeremiah 31:33^{xiii}; Ezekiel 36:26,27^{xiv}).

In all Paul referred to Jesus as the "Son of God" seventeen times in his letters. Jesus is uniquely and exclusively the Son of God, equal with the Father from all eternity, unrivaled by any creatures in his essential deity. All the more remarkable, then, is Paul's description of the redeemed as "sons of God."^{xv}

Our modern sensitivity to gender prefers the translation "children" rather than "sons". But that misses the point. Israel was referred to as children of God. In Christ, whether male or female, we are considered sons (John 1:12^{xvi}). That is because we are in Christ who is the Son! And the son is the heir of everything. In the Old Testament the daughters rarely received an inheritance. The property went to the sons. Sisters, the fact that God calls you sons here is not derogatory, rather it includes you in Christ who is *the* Son and the inheritor of all things!

When people say we are all sons and daughters of God, they are misguided. We are all made in God's image (Genesis 1:27^{xviii}). But we can only be a son of God by being in Christ our Savior, *the* Son. Those who are not in Christ may have good intentions and be nice, but they are not sons of God. They may become sons of God by faith in Jesus and His sacrifice for us, but that requires humility to receive the conviction of the Holy Spirit pointing out that we are all sinners in need of salvation (John 16:8^{xviii}). Paul uses the phrase “in Christ” 127 times in his letters. It is the same idea as the following verse.

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Galatians 3:27 The expression “Baptized into Christ” is not the act of baptism, but rather the immersion into Christ and thereby into the family of God upon salvation. The ceremony of baptism declares that you have already been baptized into Christ, meaning you have become immersed into the Lord's body (Ephesians 5:29-31^{xix}). Like dipping material into a vat of dye, you have the Jesus' color like everyone else in baptized into Him.

Putting on Christ is one of my favorite Paulisms (Ephesians 4:24^{xx}; Colossians 3:10^{xxi}; Romans 13:14^{xxii}). Christ is our covering. We are clothed in Him, God sees His righteousness and not our failures. Thank God for this grace! We put off the old man and put on Christ. Baptism pictures the old man being buried and rising to new life in Jesus' resurrection. We should be completely changed, a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17^{xxiii}). It is not that we just try to imitate Him, but that our life is dependent on and drawn from Him. That can be true for anyone who will come to God believing His Word by faith. It is what makes the body of Christ one, for we are all in Him (John 14:20^{xxiv}). That includes a commitment to one another as well.

When I pray, I often picture in my mind's eye being clothed in Christ as I approach the throne of God (Hebrews 4:16^{xxv}). That is why we are accepted there. It is not because of our righteousness, but because of His. That is why God hears our prayers. That is why the seraphim who guard the holiness of God allow us to approach the throne of grace.

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 In Christ we are one regardless of gender, race, culture, or status. We all have the Jesus' color. We are all drink of the same Holy Spirit who unites us (1 Corinthians 12:12,13^{xxvi}). So of course, there is no need for circumcision of the flesh, which is what the Judaizers were insisting on. Jews may do so to honor the covenant with their forefathers if they see it as a picture of what Jesus does in our hearts, but it earns no merit with God. In Christ, our hearts are circumcised, which is what circumcision represented (Deuteronomy 30:6^{xxvii}).

The oneness mentioned here has to do with salvation and the family of God, not roles in the church body (Titus 1:5,6^{xxviii}; 2:3,4^{xxix}). People try to apply this verse to roles in the church and sexual relations when other verses clearly tell us that is not the case. Cafeteria Christians sometimes choose single verse and misinterpret it to support their personal preference. Let us always consider the context of the passage and the full counsel of God. Scripture is to be interpreted with Scripture. The context here is clearly regarding salvation, being a part of the body of Christ. The Word of God never contradicts itself when we understand it correctly.

Leaders are servants of the flock. You can serve the flock with or without a title. How sad to leave your brothers and sisters over the desire for a title. Pastors or elders (the term is interchangeable) are servants of the congregation. We will be held accountable to God for how we led the church and what we taught (James 3:1^{xxx}). Women clearly have

an important role in the church. We all need one another in our God given roles. All of us are equally valued because we are in the Son. Whether the culture is swinging in one direction or another should not affect the Word of God. The Word of God is for every culture in every age. Christians live in the Biblical culture, for we are citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20^{xxxi}). We will never fit in.

²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. Galatians 3:29 The people of faith are the spiritual descendants of Abraham and heirs of the blessing promised to him. That is because like Abraham, we believe the promise and are counted as righteous. That promise is that through his Descendant all the world will be blessed. We have received the blessing of the Messiah's atonement and promised Holy Spirit. Our part is to believe by faith, just like Abraham believed God. Jesus did the work that made it possible by taking our sins upon Himself.

Some of the other blessings such as the promise of the land and some of the promises through the prophets seem to be specifically to the physical descendants of Abraham. They are stated unconditionally, and some are said to be forever. But the promised blessing to the world is the great blessing that is ours forever!

^{4:1} I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. Galatians 4:1,2 In that age you had to be approved as mature by your father before the rights of an heir were given. That seems wiser than setting an age, as people mature differently. When the father saw the son was wise enough to represent the household, he would have a ceremony *toga virilas* in which he placed a robe on the young man before all the relatives and friends. Paul is comparing Israel under the law to an immature child waiting for the time to come when they were ready to inherit the promises. The law was the guardian or manager until the promised Messiah came. Then we could put on the robe that is Jesus Christ. We can represent the household of God!

³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. Galatians 4:3 The Jewish people were still learning spiritual truth through the law revealing man to be sinful and in need of a Savior. Just like a parent tells a child, "Don't touch this, and don't do that, and be sure to stay in the yard." The law gave rules to help keep them safe from the destructiveness of the elementary principles of the world that enslaves us, such as greed, sex, and power.

I can imagine these revelations came to Paul as he studied the Torah in the Syrian desert. Drop by drop the revelations began to come together as he saw what God was doing, keeping sin in check, revealing our need for a Savior, until the perfect time when the promised Messiah would come. He looked at Israel's repeated failure to obey the law and the idolatry that seduced them and tempted him (Romans 7:7,8^{xxxii}). Doing so would reveal the need for the promised Messiah to redeem us.

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, Galatians 4:4 The time set by the Father came to make a way that we might be adopted by faith. Jesus was sent into the world in the body of baby through a woman, not a man and woman, but the virgin Mary, while the Jews were still under the law. This is the gospel: God sent forth His Son and Spirit to awaken faith in us.

It was the time God set, for the population of the world was about to begin a dramatic upward turn. Romans were building roads for safer travel which would distribute the message to distant lands. Ships were sailing further. Greek language with

its exactitude was the lingua franca. Records were being preserved which would give us thousands of manuscripts of parts of the New Testament. The world was seeing the Roman and Greek gods to be powerless. Israel was under the heavy yoke of the law and seeking One who would distill it down to one basic truth. Women were praying to be the mother of the Messiah. Foreigners were looking for a king to rise in Israel. Everything was moving toward that predestined (*Kairos*) moment when God would reveal the means by which any person enters the family of God through faith. Faith was always the way of salvation, but Jesus born of a woman, born under the law became the sacrifice for our sins which was how our adoption as sons was made legally possible.

⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. Galatians 4:5 The purpose of His coming was to bring about our transition from being under the law to adoption as mature sons inheriting all the rights that come with it. We had to be redeemed to be sanctified to be vessels to receive the Holy Spirit. We need to realize what our adoption means. We can now participate with our Father as we pray His will into the earth and interact with others as His hands and feet! It is time for us to put on Christ! It reminds me of the hymn, Let Others See Jesus in Me.

⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Galatians 6:6 That full sonship and redemption enabled the Spirit to fill us, and so we cry out with the Spirit of Jesus in us, "Daddy, Father!" We are brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus who was the only One to cry out like that (Mark 14:36^{xxxiii}; Romans 8:15^{xxxiv}; Hebrews 2:11^{xxxv})! He is the heir of all things and so we are co-heirs with Him (1 Corinthians 3:21,22^{xxxvi}; Romans 8:17^{xxxvii}).

⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Galatians 4:7 Now we are no longer under the old do's and don'ts with our guardian watching over our every move. We are full sons and have received our rights as sons and heirs through God's gracious provision of Jesus. This is the point Paul is trying to convey to Galatians who think they need to obey the laws of Moses to somehow please God. We can come boldly to the throne of grace in time of need and expect He will hear and help. We can choose to walk in the Spirit and crucify the flesh by donning the robe of Christ. We can speak truth in Jesus' name and call people from darkness to light. We can pray God's will into the earth. We can live as instruments of righteousness (Romans 6:13^{xxxviii}). Unlike the world which curses God for difficulties, we cry out to God as our Abba. He disciplines us because we are sons (Hebrews 12:7,8^{xxxix}). That is the evidence that we are full sons and no longer under the tutelage of the law.

"If a son" implies not all are sons. These wonderfully freeing abilities are not ours unless we've been adopted. The only way to be adopted is to be in the Son and let the Son live in us (John 17:23^{xl}). That not only means we have a special relationship with our heavenly Father, but that we also have an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, unfading, reserved in heaven for us, while we are kept by the power of God through faith, unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (Romans 8:17^{xli}; 1 Peter 1:3-5^{xlii}).

We sometimes feel like these Galatians, wondering if we shouldn't be doing more to truly be saved, wondering if this good news is really for us. It is not about being good enough. Only Jesus was good enough. His mercy and grace brought you into the family of God. I think we can all relate to this: **I'm not what I should be, but I'm not who I used to be, which gives me faith He'll finish the work in me.** Are you in Christ? He invites us to come to Him and receive the adoption by faith in what He has done for us.

Questions:

- 1 What were the Jews held captive by?
- 2 What are we all imprisoned under?
- 3 Why were those things necessary?
- 4 How do we become sons of God?
- 5 Why not sons and daughters?
- 6 What does it mean to put on Christ?
- 7 How does that relate to the Roman culture?
- 8 What does 4:3 tell us we were enslaved to?
- 9 What does it mean to be an heir of God?
- 10 Have you been set free?

ⁱ **Romans 2:14-15 (ESV)**

¹⁴ For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

ⁱⁱ *Mikraot Gedoloth*, corresponding section.

ⁱⁱⁱ **John 8:34 (ESV)**

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

^{iv} Exell, J. S. (n.d.). *The Biblical Illustrator: Galatians* (p. 204). New York; Chicago; Toronto; London; Edinburgh: Fleming H. Revell Company.

^v 1 Peter 1:8 (ESV)

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

^{vi} **Ezekiel 11:19 (ESV)**

¹⁹ And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

^{vii} **John 1:29 (ESV)**

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

^{viii} **Galatians 2:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

^{ix} **Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)**

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

^x **Matthew 23:4 (ESV)**

⁴ They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

^{xi} **Romans 11:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,

^{xii} **Ephesians 2:12-19 (ESV)**

¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

^{xiii} **Jeremiah 31:33 (ESV)**

³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

^{xiv} **Ezekiel 36:26-27 (ESV)**

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

^{xv} George, T. (1994). Galatians (Vol. 30, p. 274). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

^{xvi} **John 1:12 (ESV)**

¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

^{xvii} **Genesis 1:27 (ESV)**

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

^{xviii} **John 16:8 (KJV)**

⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

^{xix} **Ephesians 5:29-31 (ESV)**

²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

^{xx} **Ephesians 4:24 (ESV)**

²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

^{xxi} **Colossians 3:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

^{xxii} **Romans 13:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

^{xxiii} **2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

^{xxiv} **John 14:20 (ESV)**

²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

^{xxv} **Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

^{xxvi} **1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (ESV)**

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

^{xxvii} **Deuteronomy 30:6 (ESV)**

⁶ And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

^{xxviii} **Titus 1:5-6 (ESV)**

⁵ This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— ⁶ if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.

^{xxix} **Titus 2:3-4 (ESV)**

³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,

^{xxx} **James 3:1 (ESV)**

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

^{xxxi} **Philippians 3:20 (ESV)**

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

^{xxxii} **Romans 7:7-8 (ESV)**

⁷ What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have

known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”⁸ But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.

^{xxxiii} **Mark 14:36 (ESV)**

³⁶ And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

^{xxxiv} **Romans 8:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

^{xxxv} **Hebrews 2:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

^{xxxvi} **1 Corinthians 3:21-22 (ESV)**

²¹ So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours,

²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours,

^{xxxvii} **Romans 8:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

^{xxxviii} **Romans 6:13 (ESV)**

¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

^{xxxix} **Hebrews 12:7-8 (ESV)**

⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

^{xl} **John 17:23 (ESV)**

²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

^{xli} **Romans 8:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

^{xlii} **1 Peter 1:3-5 (ESV)**

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,⁵ who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.