

## **Our Heavenly Father: Creator and Re-Creator**

Sermon Outline (Galatians 3:22-29 and Luke 8:26-39)

- I We are locked in sin prison until we are delivered by Christ.
  - A. We had to child-proof our house to keep Amity safe when she was little; she tried to find ways to break the rules/run away.
  - B. Like a father child-proofing a house, our Heavenly Father has worked thru-out history to keep his children safe from evil.
  - C. In OT there were covenants w/Noah, Abraham and w/Moses and all Israel in keeping God's law w/the 10 commandments. God's laws gave his people healthy, loving boundaries.
  - D. Gal. 3-Paul says we're 'kept under guard by the Law'; we are confined by our own sin, which the law makes us aware of.
    - 1. A person may sin in ignorance (like not knowing that taking Lord's name in vain violates 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment.)
    - 2. To transgress is to go against known & accepted standards, like if a Christian commits adultery.
    - 3. The law reveals our sin; it doesn't produce sin.
- II Most Christians can attest to a spiritual deliverance by Christ.
  - A. Some are brought out of drug/alcohol addiction trusting him
  - B. Some bound by bitterness/anxiety/brokenness are healed.
  - C. In Luke 8 the demonized man was delivered/healed by Christ
    - 1. Some commentators believe the man was mentally ill.
    - 2. Larson-whether demons or mental illness, it's difficult.
    - 3. I believe man was demonized; can cause insane behavior
    - 4. He lived a lonely/isolated life, like many homeless today
    - 5. Legion of demons inside him said "do not torment me!"
    - 6. Been wounded/abused/embittered?-openings for Satan
    - 7. Demons cast into pigs-the man's completely re-created!
    - 8. Instead of joy, townsfolk-upset at loss of \$\$ w/out pigs
    - 9. Jesus hoped the man's testimony would change hearts
  - D. Many testify of God's re-creating power in their lives-ex. 1 Canadian businessman-overwhelmed w/anxiety/depression prayed & heard God say "it doesn't have to be that way!" He believed Christ & was reborn. He has new source of strength
  - E. Jesus wants to deliver us from whatever demons (as anxiety) plague our lives; Christ wants to re-create us from inside out.