

INTRODUCTION OF IDOLATRY

The doctrine of Idolatry will be taught in three lessons:

- **Introduction of Idolatry**
- Cultural Idolatry;
- National Idolatry

In today's lesson, we will study five aspects of Introduction of Idolatry taken from our lesson text.

In today's lesson text, the word idolatry is not mentioned but the concept of idolatry is stated,

(Gal.4:8) "However at the time, when you **did not know God**, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods."

Pay special attention to Paul's connecting of **three special TIMES** in the perfect Plan of God that Paul related to the Galatia believers.

1. We will begin by examining the uniqueness of the Greek language taught by Paul to teach doctrinal truths about these three special TIMES in the perfect plan of God.

First special Time (Gal.4:4) "When the fullness of time came."

Second special Time (Gal. (4:8) **However** (alla/conjunction of contrast) **at that time** (tote/ temporal adverb of time/ plus men / particle of emphasis/ not translated). Paul used this phrase to establish a special time within the Fullness of Time when the Galatians were **unbelievers**.

Third special Time (Gal.4:9) **But** (de/ conjunction of contrast) **now that** (nun/ temporal adverb of time). Paul used this phrase to establish a special time within the Fullness of Time when the Galatians **became believers**.

2. The first special TIME that Paul mentioned was "When fullness of time came" in (Gal.4:4).

Fullness of Time deals with the Old Covenant messianic chronology to the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

(Gal.4:4-5) "God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, **so that He** might redeem those who were under the Law, **that we** might receive the adoption as sons."

"Fullness of Time" covers the period from the First Advent to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ.

3. The second special TIME mentioned by Paul in the Perfect Plan of God was "However at that time" in Gal.4:8.

- "However at That Time" was part of the Fullness of Time. It occurred within the Church Age dispensation.

- “However at That Time” dealt with the time when the Galatians were unbelievers that God sent Paul on his first missionary trip (Acts 13-14/ first missionary trip/ Gal.1:2/ formed churches of south Galatia).

Paul mentioned that the Galatians were idolaters - “**slaves** to those which by nature are no gods.” (Gal.4:8; 4:9b)

Paul said, At That Time, they were polytheistic and idolatrous religious unbelievers.

4. The third special TIME mentioned by Paul in the Perfect Plan of God was “But now that” in (Gal.4:9).

(Acts 13-14) “But Now That” time was also part of the Fullness of Time. These polytheistic, idolatrous unbelievers were saved by Paul’s preaching of the grace gospel of salvation. (Gal.4:9b).

(Acts 13:38-39) “Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.”

5. Pay attention to what happened between Gal.4:4 and Gal.4:9.

It is the reason for the incarnation of Jesus Christ and these three special TIMES in the perfect timing of the Plan of God (Gal.4:5-9).

(Gal.4:5-7) Redemption, adoption as sons, and heirs through God.

(Gal.4:8) Redeemed from slaves to polytheistic idolatrous unbelievers.

(Gal.4:9) Redeemed to know God, or rather to be known by God

(Gal.1:4) Who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.

(2 Pet.3:9) “The Lord is not slow about His promise as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”