

Series "No Other Gospel"
"Bondage Versus Freedom"
Galatians 4:21-31
Part-10

Paul uses an **Allegory** – "a spiritual application of a literal, historical event."

Galatians 4:24 – "This is allegorically speaking,"

The characters and events of the Old Testament have often been used as illustrations of New Testament principles.

Galatians 1-2 – Gospel of Grace Defended (Personal).

Galatians 3-4 – Gospel of Grace Explained (Doctrinal).

The Thought Of The Passage: "The Relationship Offered Through Jesus Christ Is One Of Freedom, Not A Relationship Of Bondage."

1. Verses 21-23 – The Background

2. Verses 24-27 – The Argument

3. Verses 28-31 – The Application

1. Verses 21-23 – The Background:

Galatians 4: 21 – "Tell me," – The Context – Paul has just appealed to the Galatians in Galatians 4:12-20, a relationship between a pastor and his congregation.

"you who want to be under law," – Being "under the law" is attempting to obey the Law in order to be accepted by God.

Paul is writing to Jews that are in the process of returning to the Law. This is the sin of pride; it is the belief that I am not as bad as the Bible says I am, I am also better than what the Bible says.

"do you not listen to the law?" – To "listen" – Are you really giving attention to what the Law is saying, are you understanding it and practicing it?

Galatians are supposed to be living by what the Law says, but are they really listening?

Verse 22 – Abraham Had Two Sons: Galatians 4:22 – "For it is written" – This is the way to determine what is right and what is God's will on the subject.

"that Abraham" – Paul goes back to the Jewish icon which was Abraham.

Matthew 3:9

"had two sons," – This takes us back to Genesis 21; account of Isaac and Ishmael.

"one by the bondwoman" – This was Hagar, who was a slave from Egypt.

Genesis 16:1 – "Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no children," – Sarai is 76.

"Faith" – A willingness to wait on the Lord is another evidence that you are walking by faith, Isaiah 28:16.

Genesis 16:2 – "perhaps I shall obtain children through her." – This was a culturally accepted practice. That you could marry your maid and raise up children to keep the name going.

Genesis 16:3 – "Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife." – Genesis 2:24.

Galatians 3:3

Genesis 16:4-5

Notice the wrong reactions to the consequences of sin. – "And Sarai said to Abram, 'May the wrong done me be upon you.'"

Genesis 16:6

Galatians 4:22 – "and one by the free woman." – This was Isaac through Sarah.

Genesis 21:1 – "Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said," – Notice God's Word. What He had said. Isaac was a promise by God to them.

Genesis 21:2-3 – The name "Isaac" – "Laughter." This name came when God announced to Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son next year. Sarah laughed so God said his name will be called "laughter, or to laugh."

Verse 23 – Two Sons by Two Methods: Galatians 4:23.

"But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh," – Human Planning and effort, flesh.

"and the son by the free woman through the promise." – Promises Of God, Trust. Abraham was 100 and Sarah 90; it was impossible; they had to trust God.

Genesis 21:2 – God had appeared to Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 17-18. Lesson: God Is Not In A Hurry: "at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him."

2. Verses 24-27 – The Argument:

Galatians 4:24 – "This is allegorically speaking," – Paul is using a real life account to teach a lesson.

"for these women are two covenants:" – The lesson is that Hagar and Sarah represent 2 different contracts with God.

"Covenants" – "a solemn agreement between God and man." He makes them His people and promises to be their God. The Old was with Moses and the New is with Christ. Old based on Law, New on promise.

The Old had the words, "You shall not;" The New "I will."

"one proceeding from Mount Sinai" – Bondage of Judaism.

"bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar." – That the Law cannot set us free. It has no power to liberate us or to forgive us, it simply exposes our faults.

Galatians 4:25 – "Mount Sinai in Arabia," – The Arabians are known as "The Sons of Hagar."

"corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children." –Hagar represents the covenant of the Law, Earthly.

"Jerusalem" – Was the capital of the land God gave his people. The city represents the people of God.

Galatians 4:26 – "But the Jerusalem above is free;" – Freedom in Christianity; Those that place their faith in what God alone can do.

"she is our mother." – Sarah represents the heavenly; the Christians that enter by faith.

Galatians 4:27 – Isaiah 54:1.

"FOR MORE NUMEROUS ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE DESOLATE THAN OF THE ONE WHO HAS A HUSBAND." – Seed of Abraham.

3. Verses 28-31 – The Application:

Galatians 4:28 – "And you brethren, like Isaac" – This is the application of the Scriptures that we were born again, not by our own doing but by God through faith.

"are children of promise." – We are children of God through faith, not physical birth.

Galatians 4:29

Genesis 21:9 – "mocking." – "Laughed at."

The problems began with the new birth of Isaac. That the flesh is represented by Ishmael; that when the new birth took place, there was a battle that started.

Galatians 4:30

But what does the Scripture say? This is God's statement on the Law.

A True Child of God Will Receive An Inheritance: "CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN AND HER SON," – Genesis 21:9-14.

Galatians 4:31

Application:

1. Becoming God's Children Is Not Through Works, Or Through Ceremony: Ishmael came through Abraham, and was even circumcised. He still had an evil heart. He was mocking God's promise.
2. Ishmael Represents The Religion Of The Flesh: It is all about what we can be and all we can do through our own effort and works; Works apart from faith in God.
3. Isaac Represents The Relationship Of Grace: What God has promised and done, and what He will do.