
Mission 119 Ministries

GALATIANS: THE GRACE GOSPEL UNDER ATTACK

LESSON 5: A GRACE ALLEGORY

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REVIEW

- **Galatians written before the Jerusalem Council of Acts 15, but those events help us understand the context; Acts 15:1-5, 23-29**
 - **The issue is faith alone in Christ alone**
 - **Paul warns those that pervert “faith alone in Christ alone” should be accursed (Galatians 1:6-9)**
 - **A perverted gospel is faith in Christ plus anything else (repentance of sins, live a certain way, get baptized)**
 - **Galatians 1:10-24 stresses the divine origin of his gospel**
 - **Galatians 2 stresses that the content of his message has divine sanction**
 - **Galatians 3 stresses the supremacy of faith / grace to Law**
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REVIEW

- **Galatians 3:25-29: the law is for the child (under a pedagogue) but faith is the mature system**
 - **Galatians 4:1-20 presents the first of two illustrations about a son, first the son that is the heir and second the son of promise**
 - **Illustration from Roman life, wealthy man's son is an heir but as a child is under tutors and governors**
 - **The son is like a slave until a time appointed by the father, he exchanges togas and is a legal adult**
 - **Why go back to being a slave?**
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INTRODUCTION

- **Galatians 4:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?**
 - **Paul uses sarcasm, don't you understand the Law?**
 - **Paul is not talking about understanding the regulations, but the larger context of the Old Testament**
 - **The word "Law" can refer just to the Mosaic system or more broadly to the Old Testament**
 - **The implication from Paul asking the question is that they do not understand but need to.**
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ILLUSTRATION

- **Galatians 4:22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he *who was of the bondwoman* was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.**
 - **Paul illustrates about understanding the OT in that it teaches the priority of grace over Law**
 - **The example is from the life of Abraham, which precedes the Mosaic system**
 - **These are historical facts from Genesis 16 and 21**
 - **Ishmael came by natural process, but Isaac by promise**
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INTERPRETATION

- **Galatians 4:24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.**
 - **Paul is NOT teaching that we should allegorize the OT**
 - **Allegorizing as a hermeneutic makes the reader master of the text and the interpretation limited only by the reader's imagination**
 - **There are 3 parallels: two covenants, two cities, and two mothers**
 - **This verse refers to two covenants**
 - **"these" is feminine and refers to Sarah and Hagar**
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INTERPRETATION

- **Galatians 4:25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.**
 - **Hagar represents (“is”) the covenant given on Mount Sinai**
 - **Hagar answers (literally stands in a row with [like arrayed soldiers]) the current city of Jerusalem**
 - **Hagar and her children are slaves (see Gal. 4:8-9)**
 - **Paul wants them to understand there are two cities**
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INTERPRETATION

- **Galatians 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.**
 - **There is also a heavenly Jerusalem that is not in bondage**
 - **See Philippians 3:20, Hebrews 11:10, 12:22, 13:14**
 - **Sarah represents the New Jerusalem and is the mother of “us” because they are children of God by faith (grace)**
 - **To which city is your allegiance, the one in bondage or the one that is free?**
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INTERPRETATION

- **Galatians 4:27** For it is written, *Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.*
 - **Paul quotes Isaiah 54:1**, where the prophet speaks of Israel in bondage in **Babylonia** as a wife without a husband and thus no children
 - **But God will in the future bless Israel in the kingdom and the barren wife will have more children than before the captivity**
 - **Paul's principle is that the wife without a husband may have more children than the wife with the husband based on God's promise, and so it is with Sarah**
 - **The Law had its purpose but it is the heirs of promise that will be blessed**
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INTERPRETATION

- **Galatians 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. 29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.***
 - **We are lined up with Isaac as the children of promise because we are born again by faith just as Isaac was the child of faith**
 - **As Ishmael persecuted Isaac (Gen. 21:9-10) and as a result was banished with Hagar and was not an heir**
 - **Judaizers (performance gospel folks) always ridicule those that walk by faith because we do not abide by their rules**
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INTERPRETATION

- **Galatians 4:30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.**
 - **See Genesis 21:10-12, Hagar and Ishmael banished**
 - **The Judaizers must be banished from the church**
 - **Those that believe in faith righteousness and faith sanctification are free, and must not be taunted back to bondage by those in bondage**
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SO WHAT

- **You are a child of promise, an heir, not a slave**
 - **Do you want liberty or chains? Grace or Law? Faith or performance?**
 - **But... (Judaizers will argue strenuously that you must return to bondage)**
 - **Reject the Judaizers and exclude them from the local church**
 - **Note an area of balance (Romans 14)**
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