

"Doctrine of Justification and Sanctification"

Galatians 3-4

Part 9

Introduction: Last week in our study of Galatians we looked at Paul's personal appeal to the believers in Galatia. He reminded them in Galatians 4:12-20 of how they had accepted him when he came to them to preach the Gospel. They loved Paul but now that the Judaizers had infiltrated their ranks they had turned on Paul. He was telling them the Truth but they were seeing him now as an enemy. This was because the Judaizers had cast doubt on Paul's Apostleship and his message. Paul recorded these words to help them to see what the Judaizers had done to them. Paul wanted them to wake up to be aware of what was happening as they listened to these religious Jews.

Notice Galatians 4:17

Herein lies one of the tactics of Satan as he attacks the church. He does his best to isolate believers and keep them away from the body of Jesus Christ. When he can get a man or a woman to stay away from church services then he can plant corrupt seeds in their minds. This brings to mind what Paul wrote concerning the spiritual battle.

Ephesians 6:12-16

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Much of the spiritual battle is fought in the mind. The best and most effective way to combat Satan is to have our minds saturated with the Truth. When a believer isolates from the church where the Bible is taught, they become very susceptible to Satan's

attacks on the mind. When there is distance between the believer and the body of Christ the stage is set for Satan to get into the mind.

Tonight, we have come to the end of chapter 4 and the end of the doctrinal section.

➤ **"Old Testament Allegory"**

Galatians 4:21-31

Notice Galatians 4:21

Paul begins this thought with a question to stir the minds of both the Galatians. For those who desired to be under the Law they needed to understand what the Law said. Paul will now take his readers back into the book of Genesis and into the life of Abraham.

Notice Galatians 4:22=23

Paul will now use the two sons of Abraham to make his point. One son was born to a bondmaid and the other to a free woman. Ishmael was the son born to the bondmaid and Isaac was the son born to the free woman.

Genesis 12:1-4

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

⁴ So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

Abraham was 75 and God promised that from him would come a great nation. But the problem was Sarah was barren.

Genesis 15:1-4

After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

² And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

³ And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

⁴ And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

Next, we come to Genesis 16 and Abraham is 86 years old. He and Sarah believe that they must help if God's promise is to be fulfilled.

Genesis 16:1-4

Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.

² And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

³ And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

⁴ And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

This brought about the birth of Ishmael. Keep in mind that his birth was brought about in the flesh. After this God steps in to bring about the fulfillment of His promise.

Genesis 17:15-16

¹⁵ And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.

¹⁶ And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

Then we see the fulfillment in Genesis 21.

Genesis 21:1-3

And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

² For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

³ *And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.*

Notice Galatians 4:23

Isaac then is the child of promise. Ishmael came by the flesh and Isaac's birth was supernatural.

Notice Galatians 4:24

Now Paul takes the account of the two births to another level. He tells us these things are an allegory. An allegory is taking an event such as we read about and seeing within it a deep spiritual meaning. That is what Paul will do with this story but we must not miss the fact that he will not deny the historical truth of the events. In other words, the story of the two sons is true and Paul does not deny that. I point this out because many allegorize Scripture today and when they do they deny the historical truth of the passage or they see little importance in the historicity of the text. In other words, they do not believe the events actually took place but they believe it is recorded to communicate a spiritual meaning. When this happens the teacher uses his own imagination to interpret the text and there is no way to check his interpretation because he is the only one who sees the picture which he teaches. Let me just say that when we read the Bible, we must interpret the passage literally unless the text tells us otherwise.

Notice Galatians 4:24 again.

Paul tells his readers that the story pictures two covenants. One is the Mosaic Covenant which is pictured in Hagar and the other would be the Abrahamic Covenant which is pictured in Sarah.

The Mosaic Covenant is a Covenant of slavery and bondage. Just as Hagar was a slave. How is the Mosaic Covenant a covenant of bondage? Because those who are under the covenant are slaves. They are enslaved to the covenant in an attempt to keep it as God requires.

Notice Galatians 4:25

The word "answereth" could be translated "corresponds." The idea in this verse is that Hagar represents Jerusalem on the earth and at the time that Paul wrote this letter it was in bondage to the Roman Empire. Her children would be the Jews who were caught up in the Law of Moses, namely the religious leaders. They claimed to be free but they were enslaved.

John 8:32-34

³² *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

³³ *They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

³⁴ *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

Notice Galatians 4:26

Jerusalem above is the heavenly city which will descend in the eternal state. All believers are citizens of that heavenly city which is the city of freedom. This is the city of promise and the city of grace.

Notice Galatians 4:27

Now Paul quotes from Isaiah 54:1.

Isaiah 54:1

Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD.

Let me explain what is being said by Isaiah. This verse refers to Judah when they were carried into the Babylonian Captivity. Before the captivity they were fruitful but during the captivity they were barren. They were to rejoice however because there was coming a day, in the Kingdom when they would bear more children than they would be able to count. Just like Sarah was barren and it looked like Hagar would have more offspring but through Sarah came the son of promise and an entire nation.

Application:

Here is the point that Paul is making. Living under the Law may give the appearance that there is much fruit but the reality is that it is grace that produces much fruit and it is only fruit brought by grace that is acceptable to God. Notice the words of Gangel.

"This quote from Isaiah 54:1 contrasts the future lineages of the two women. Sarah (grace) was initially barren, but she ended up with innumerable spiritual children because of the Abrahamic Covenant. She eventually surpassed the younger Hagar. The intended comparison was between the growth of Christianity (grace) and the stagnation of Judaism (law) in the first century. Paul is challenging the Galatians to choose Christ (grace)."

➤ The Application

Notice Galatians 4:28

We are like Isaac for we are children of promise. The idea is that just as the birth of Isaac was supernatural so was our spiritual birth supernatural. Since we received the supernatural work of grace at our new birth so we should continue to walk in grace so that the supernatural power of God will continue to work in our lives. It is grace only that brings forth fruit that is acceptable to God. Works that are done in the flesh are of no spiritual value.

Genesis 22:1-2

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

² And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

God told Isaac to take his only son to Mount Moriah. But Ishmael also existed. How are we to understand this? God did not recognize Ishmael because he was a son of the flesh.

I point this out to help us to see that the works of the flesh have no spiritual value with God.

Notice Galatians 4:29

Paul is looking back to Genesis 21.

Genesis 21:

⁸ And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned.

⁹ And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

Just as Ishmael persecuted Isaac so religion always persecutes the walk of faith. This is seen in the way the religious leaders persecuted the Apostles. I have seen many times when people who were caught up in legalism criticized those who were walking by faith and living in grace. Legalism and religion hate a walk of faith. Consider what Cain did to his brother Abel. Abel was a man of faith and Cain was a man of religion.

Notice Galatians 4:30

Abraham was commanded by God to cast out the bond woman, Hagar. In the same way the Galatians were to cast out the Judaizers. They needed to separate from them. There is no such thing as hybrid Christians. We must live by faith because grace and Law do not mix.

Conclusion:

Notice Galatians 4:31

Jesus gave His life to set us free let us therefore continue to live by faith and expect the grace of God to continue to do supernatural work in our lives.