

GALATIANS

NO OTHER GOSPEL

Galatians 4:21-31

Grace plus anything does **NOT** equal Salvation.

“The Tale of Twos”...

- Two Covenants
- Two Mothers
- Two Sons
- Two Jerusalems
- Two Belief Systems

Galatians 4: 21-31 ~ Key Points

- Grace Plus Anything Does **NOT** Equal Salvation.
- Slavery vs. Freedom, Making an Informed Choice.
- Christ has TRULY SET US FREE. Now, STAY FREE!

Galatians: What were they like?

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The Galatians

- Primarily Gentiles
- Raised in pagan culture.
- Came to Saving Faith by Hearing the Gospel from Paul.

The Church

- Comprised of mostly Gentiles who had heard and believed the Gospel.
- Saved
- Regenerated
- Justified
- Being Sanctified

Sounds good so far, so what was the problem?

WHAT was the problem?

- Judaizers from Jerusalem had arrived at the church and were teaching a false gospel.
- They claimed that what the Galatians believed lacked an important element.
- Teaching that the Galatians needed to follow the Law in order for their salvation to be complete.

What was the PROBLEM?

- One commentator stated that the Judaizers arrived and said they also believed in Jesus, that Jesus was the Messiah and they trusted in Him as their Savior. However, they told the Galatians that they must also keep the Law of Moses. By this they meant not the moral law, which is the reflection of God's character, eternal and everlasting...the Judaizers meant the external laws, namely circumcision, festivals and the feasts (Gal 4:10).

Regarding the Law...

- *“When Christ came the law was done, its role was over. . . Now Christ has come, and we go from shadow to substance. . . . The Galatians lacked nothing. They did not need to go back into the bondage of those old Mosaic prescriptions.”*
- So basically, the Judaizers are saying, “We have the truth; you have *not* received salvation until you follow the Law of Moses.”

Why was Paul so ticked off?!

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- Paul has a history:
 - ✓ of the tribe of Benjamin,
 - ✓ educated under Gamaliel,
 - ✓ was a keeper of the law, zealous, a Pharisee.
 - ✓ he knew the scriptures very well, perhaps better than most men alive at the time. Judaism he knew.
 - ✓ When Jesus came along, Paul (at that time known as Saul) was offended by the teachings of Jesus and worked hard to root out churches and place believers under arrest and have them jailed.
 - ✓ “But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.” Acts 9:1-2

Why is Paul so ticked off?!

- Paul's history includes an encounter with the Risen Christ.
 - ✓ After his encounter with Christ, Paul had a new and proper understanding of scripture.
 - ✓ Acts 9:20, ““And **immediately** he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”
 - ✓ the Judaizers were proclaiming the false doctrine of Grace plus works (following the Law).
 - ✓ the Judaizers are twisting the Gospel to mislead the Galatians, Paul's spiritual children.
 - ✓ False Teaching is **NOT** the same as proclaiming the Truth of the Gospel.

Why is Paul so ticked off!?!

Judaizers' "Salvation" Message

- Under the Law...
 - What YOU Do For God is what makes you "Righteous."
 - Focus is on MY Performance.
 - We use fig leaves to cover our nakedness.
 - False understanding of the Law.
 - Rejects God's Promise.
 - Death

True Gospel Message from Paul

- Under Grace...
 - What GOD Has Done For Us makes Us Right before God.
 - Focus is on Who Jesus is & what He has done.
 - We receive the Robes of Righteousness via Jesus sacrificial death on the cross.
 - True understanding of the Law.
 - Accepts God's Promise.
 - Eternal Life

Galatians 4: 21-31

- **Example of Hagar and Sarah**
- 21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia;[a] she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written,
 - “Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
 - break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!
 - For the children of the desolate one will be more
 - than those of the one who has a husband.”
- 28 Now you,[b] brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” 31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

~ Galatians 4:21-31

Galatians 4:27

For it is written,

“Rejoice, O **barren** one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband.”

Isaiah 54:1

Barren

- “God supernaturally has intervened in the lives of women in scripture. In Israel and among oriental peoples generally barrenness was a woman's and a family's greatest misfortune.
 - The highest sanctions of religion and patriotism blessed the fruitful woman, because children were necessary for the perpetuation of the tribe and its religion.
 - It is significant that the mothers of the Hebrew race, Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel, were by nature sterile, and therefore God's special intervention shows His particular favor to Israel.”
- (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)
- God brings restoration and life!

Galatians 4: 21-31

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Two Mothers: Hagar and Sarah

Hagar / Judaism

- Slave woman
- Represents Mt Sinai
- Represents Jerusalem; City under bondage
- Works done in the flesh, Legalism
- Son Ishmael born into slavery
- Ishmael's lineage is spiritual slavery
- Illustration of trying to please God with works in the flesh and ending up in bondage: "For the law brings wrath..." (Romans 4:15)
- A person trying to earn their salvation ends up no better than when they started.

Sarah / God's Promise

Two Mothers: Hagar and Sarah

Hagar / Judaism

- Slave Woman
- Represents Mt Sinai
- Represents Jerusalem, City under bondage
- Works done in the flesh, Legalism, rejecting the Promise
- Son Ishmael born by flesh, born naturally
- Ishmael's lineage in spiritual slavery
- Illustration of trying to please God with works in the flesh and ending up in bondage

Sarah / God's Promise

- Free Woman
- Represents New Jerusalem: Above, Free
- Son Isaac, a child of the Promise
- Barren
- Isaac born Supernaturally
- Fulfillment of the prophecy from Isaiah 54:1
- Isaac & lineage are children of the Promise
- Salvation by Faith alone, leading to Freedom

“One child is the child of the flesh, the other child is the child of the promise: that’s Isaac. By the time he’s born Abraham’s 100, she’s 90. But God supernaturally creates that child in her womb. Ishmael was born according to the flesh; they did it on their terms, their way. Isaac is born through the promise of God; Ishmael is born naturally, you might say. Isaac is born supernaturally.”

(Source: John MacArthur)

Regarding the Law...

“The Christian has no business living under the law.

“What is God’s law now? It is not above a Christian — it is under a Christian. Some men hold God’s law like a rod in terrorem, over Christians, and say, ‘If you sin you will be punished with it.’ It is not so.

The law is under a Christian; it is for him to walk on, to be his guide, his rule, his pattern... Law is the road which guides us, not the rod which drives us, nor the spirit which actuates us.”

~Spurgeon

“Legalism does not mean the setting of spiritual standards; it means worshipping these standards and thinking we are spiritual because we obey them. It also means judging other believers on the basis of these standards.”

~ Wiersbe

“The better legalist a man is, the more sure he is of being damned; the more holy a man is, if he trust to his works, the more he may rest assured of his own final rejection and eternal portion with Pharisees.”

~Spurgeon

Paul asks: “Why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit to the world’s decrees?” (Col 2:20)

• Judaism:

- ✓ Religious rules are decrees given by authorities who are of the world rather than being of God.
- ✓ Jesus rebuked Jewish religious leaders for having perverted commands God gave for the good of His people. (Matthew 23:5,14; Mark 2:27).
- ✓ The purpose of these leaders was to gain prominence among men.

Christianity:

- Cautions believers to avoid submitting to such leaders. It is their choice, and they need to choose wisely.
- The New Testament teaches that true leadership exercises authority to serve, but does not lord over, as is the case in the world (1 Peter 5:2-4).
- It also conveys that it is up to each believer to discern whether a leader/preacher/teacher has a lifestyle that is obedient to Christ, and listen only to those people (Matthew 7:15-20)."

~Blue Letter Bible Dictionary

Big Idea:

Paul is saying that you cannot be saved by Grace plus the Law.

You have to make a choice. If you try to be saved by Christ and also the Law, you are not saved.

•

Paul is emphatically warning the Galatians and us of the Eternal Danger of following a false gospel.

Galatians 4:28 & 31, 5:1

Reveal an Amazing, Eternal Truth:

- 28 "Now you, **brothers**, like Isaac, are **children** of promise."
- 31 "So, **brothers**, we are not **children** of the slave but of the free woman."
Echoing Gal 4:7, "We are **heirs** of the promise."
"So you are no longer a slave, but a **son**, and if a **son**, then an **heir** through God."

Gal 5:1 "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

How do we “stand firm?”

How do we “stand firm?”

Aspects of “Standing Firm”

- Walking in the Spirit.
- Knowing the Word of God.
- Steadily increasing in the knowledge of God
- Using the power of God to joyfully endure and patiently persevere, giving thanks to the Father for what He has done.
- Being fruitful in every good work.
- Understanding the true Gospel and scripture well enough to be able to recognize a false gospel.
- Studying, living, practicing and defending the Word of God.
- Willingness to be held accountable and to hold others Biblically accountable.

Regarding Grace...

- “Galatians is the strongest declaration and defense of the doctrine of justification by faith in or out of Scripture. Not only is a sinner saved by grace through faith, but the saved sinner lives by grace. Grace is a way to life and a way of life.”

~John MacArthur

Paul Draws a Line in the Sand.

- Paul recognizes...
 - ✓ The insidious nature of False Teaching.
 - ✓ The Eternal Consequences of following False Teaching.
 - ✓ Our Best Performance is Futile. No one can be saved following the Law.
 - ✓ Accepting being under the Law is Rejecting God's Promise.
 - ✓ The huge difference between the son of the flesh and the son of the Promise.
 - ✓ Divisive nature of False Teaching on the Church.
 - ✓ The necessity of constantly guarding the True Gospel.
 - ✓ False Doctrine is Always a Lie. The True Gospel is always Love. Love wins.
 - ✓ Judaism is how Saul lived until he met Christ and was saved.

False Teaching is Not Only Judaism!

In scripture, how are False Teachers described?

In scripture, how are False Teachers described?

- **Wolves**, Acts 20:29;
- Beware of **False Prophets**, Mat 7:15 , Mat 10:15; Luke 10:3.
 - In scripture: The word "**False**" is described false in the context of **lying, deceiving, intent to harm, motivation** , etc.
- Bring **swift destruction**, Col 2:18, Col 2:23, 2 Peter 2:1
- **Sorcerer**, Luke 18:20, Acts 13:6; associated with **divination** and **witchcraft** (Jeremiah 14:14; Ezekiel 22:28; Acts 13:6).
- **Treacherous** , Zephaniah 3:4; **Wicked**, Jeremiah 23:11,
- ***So who does it sound like is motivating and guiding the False Teachers?***

The punishment specified for False Prophets in the Old Testament was severe.

- “If any prophet dares to speak a message in My name that I have not commanded him to speak, or to speak in the name of other gods, that prophet must be put to death.”

~Deuteronomy 18:20

In the New Testament, Jesus taught about **False Prophets** in His Sermon on the Mount:

- “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.”

~Matthew 7:15–18

How do you identify a False Teacher?

How to Identify a False Prophet.

- A true prophet's **words will be fulfilled** (Deuteronomy 18:21–22; Jeremiah 28:8–9).
- A true prophet's **teachings are consistent with Scripture** (2 Peter 1:20–21; Revelation 22:18–19).
- A true prophet's teachings will **encourage righteous behavior and provide spiritual benefit** (Deuteronomy 13:1–4; Jeremiah 23:13–14, 32; Ezekiel 13:17–23; 14:4–8; Lamentations 2:14).
- A true prophet's **life will reflect a divine call** (Isaiah 28:7; Jeremiah 23:10–11, 14; 29:9; Zephaniah 3:4; Matthew 7:15–20).
- A true prophet **will acknowledge Jesus Christ as divine** (1 John 4:1–6).

Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/false-prophets.html>

Galatians 4:29-30

- 29 "But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now."
- "But what does the Scripture say? **Cast out** the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman **shall not inherit** with the son of the free woman."

~Gal 4:29-30

(Cross reference: Genesis 21:8-14)

Galatians 4:29-30

- The Bible records both Abraham's concern and God's command.
- Abraham expressed compassion for his son, but he also demonstrated obedience when God required something different from what Abraham personally desired.
- In doing so, Abraham models a humility that still applies today.
- Abraham obeyed God and was known as a friend of God (James 2:23).
- His faith followed God's will, even in difficult times.
- God calls us to obedience.

Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Abraham-Ishmael.html>

Galatians 4:29-30

- “**Cast out**”--from the house and inheritance: literally, Ishmael; spiritually, the carnal and legalists.
- “Shall not be heir”--The Greek is stronger, "**must not be heir,**" or "**inherit.**"
- The point is that God told Abraham to cast out Hagar.
- Likewise every Christian must cast out the notion of relating to God only via the Law, the notion of what we do for Him instead of what He has done for us in Jesus Christ.
- There is one exclusive way to God: Jesus Christ.
- Salvation plus anything does not equal the true Gospel.

Abrahamic Covenant.

- God's grace, restoring mankind to a relationship with God by faith. This is the promise.
- Isaac was the child of the promise; a result of the power of God.
- Isaac represents salvation by **faith alone**. 'Abraham believed God and God supernaturally fulfilled His will in Abraham.'
- .. just as Abraham, "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ~Genesis 15:6.
- "Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham." ~Galatians Gal 3:7
- "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." ~ Galatians 3:8 (See also Genesis 22:18, Genesis 26:4).
- "So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith." ~Galatians 3:9

Don't miss the **Gospel** message. Don't be blinded by **False Doctrine**!

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be **accursed**. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be **accursed**.”

~Gal 1:8-9

A Case History.

A Life Lived Chained to the Law

- One Man's Experience...

- ✓ He was the son of a clergyman and a clergyman himself.
 - ✓ He was orthodox in belief, faithful in morality, and full of good works.
 - ✓ He did ministry in prisons, sweatshops, and slums.
 - ✓ He gave food, clothing, and education to slum children.
 - ✓ He observed both Saturday and Sunday as the Sabbath.
 - ✓ He sailed from England to the American colonies as a missionary.
 - ✓ He studied his Bible, prayed, fasted, and gave regularly.
- Later, he came to “trust in Christ, in Christ only for salvation.” Here is what he had to say then, “I had even then the faith of a servant, though not that of a son.”

Source ~David Guzik

Who was this man?

- Any Idea?

Who was this man?

((John Wesley))

Know Scripture.

Choose Your Trusted Leaders Carefully.

The warning this morning from Paul is to not allow **false doctrine** or **false teaching** in our church (or Bible studies or our lives).

If **false teaching** gains a foothold in the Church, people are misled and the resulting devastation has immediate (broken fellowship) and ultimately eternal (separation from God, death, hell) **negative consequences**.

How Does All This Apply to My Life?!?

- ✓ God's Promise has been fulfilled permanently with the atoning sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. We are secure eternally in Christ.
- ✓ Christ paid the penalty for All Your sins; for ALL Our sins; Salvation is not earned.
- ✓ Know Truth for Yourself. Be in the Word. Is Your Faith Your Own?
- ✓ Always ask yourself, "Does this teaching square with Scripture?"
- ✓ Also ask Yourself, "Am I growing in my obedience to God?"

Galatians 4:21-31

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