

“Are You Living in the True Freedom as a Child of the Spirit?”

Galatians 4:21-5:1 September 27, 2020

Galatians Series- Living the Gospel in the Power of the Spirit

Big Idea- The gospel that Paul preached was received directly from Jesus. Anyone, including an angel from heaven, that contradicted the gospel of grace through faith in Jesus was to be eternally condemned. The Galatians, by their own personal experience, had come to faith and received the Holy Spirit through God’s grace without following the law first.

Therefore, the rest of their spiritual life should be lived by faith and the Holy Spirit and not be rooted in OT law keeping. Paul now moves on to prove this by showing the background of God’s covenant with Abraham prior to Moses. The Law came after God’s promise to Moses and was to last **until** Jesus arrived. Everyone who expresses faith have become heirs of God’s original promise. Paul moves from biblical and logical argument to personal friendship based on integrity and mutual love. We are reminded again that we are not under the law which is a form of slavery. We are free children, like Isaac, through the Spirit.

Background Texts- God’s promise to bless Abram (75 years old) and Abram’s response of faith (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6). Abram (86 years old) has son Ishmael through Hagar (Gen 16). Abram’s name is changed to Abraham (99 years old) and receives covenant of circumcision (Gen 17). Isaac is born when Abraham is 100 years old (Gen 20).

LESSON 1- God desires for us to stand firm in our Holy Spirit FREEDOM

- A. The freedom we enjoy is understood in figurative LANGUAGE
- B. The freedom we enjoy is rooted in the NEW COVENANT (Galatians 4:22-24; 2 Corinthians 3:2-11; Hebrews 8:7-13)
- C. The freedom we enjoy often results in PERSECUTION (Galatians 4:28-29; Matthew 10:34; John 15:18; 3:19-21)
- D. The freedom we enjoy is a direct result of Jesus’ work on the CROSS (Galatians 5:1; John 19:30; 8:30-36; Romans 8:2; Acts 15:10)

Theological Application:

- 1. *Why does mankind often want to be under a law-type system?*
- 2. *Have you ever tried to “help” God out by getting ahead of Him? Shortcuts though the flesh often end in disaster! We call this lack of faith and trust.*
- 3. *Abraham was willing to settle for fleshly results and almost missed out on the amazing promises of God in Isaac’s birth (Gen 17:15-21).*
- 4. *Are you standing firm or still trying to earn God’s blessings?*

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples

Jn. 8:30-36 ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

³¹ ¶ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴ ¶ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

^{ESV} **John 3:19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." (Jn. 3:19 ESV)