

Paul's Concern for the Galatians

Galatians 4:8-20

We should be concerned when others falter

A. Paul's Regret Over Their Regression (4:8-12)

1. When you know better (4:8-9)

- a. Paul and Barnabas knew their previous idolatry**
- b. They became approved of God by Christ**
- c. Why go back to what did not work before**

2. You have traded one form of idolatry for another (4:10)

- a. What they did**
- b. Why they did it**

Because others told you

Colossians 2:16-17

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A. Paul's Regret Over Their Regression (4:8-12) – cont'd

3. Am I wasting my time? (4:11)

a. Considering Paul's concern

b. Considering Paul's commitment

c. Considering their lack of commitment

4. Become like me (4:12)

a. God changed me

Philippians 3:4-8

b. God changed you?

c. God changes us

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B. Paul's Request For A Renewed Relationship (4:13-16)

1. I did not let a trial stop me (vv 13-14)

2. You did not my trial stop you (v 15)

3. Are you turning away because you do not like what I am saying? (v 16)

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C. Paul's Reasoning With The Galatians (4:17-20)

1. The Labor Of The Legalists (4:17-18)

a. Why are they working so hard on you? (v 17)

Matthew 23:15

b. Working hard for good is always good but ... (v 18)

c. Were you putting on a show for me? (v 18)

2. Your Needed Labor To Be Christ-like (4:19-20)

a. Let's start over (v 19)

2 Corinthians 3:18

b. Let's work through this (v 20)

Law Versus Grace

Galatians 4:21-31

There is a difference!!!



I. The Facts (4:21-23)

Galatians 4:21-23

21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?

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.

A. Do you know what you are trying to get into? (4:21)

B. Which son of Abraham are you? (4:22)

1. Ishmael (Genesis 16:1-16)

2. Isaac (Genesis 21:1-7)

C. How were you born? (4:23)

II. The Figure (4:24-27)

Galatians 4:24-27

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.**

25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

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.

II. The Figure (4:24-27)

A. The Mosaic Covenant (4:24-25)

1. One born of a slave is a slave

James 2:10

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

2. Trying to live in the law makes you a slave to the law

Romans 7:1

Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

3. There is nothing different now in Jerusalem

II. The Figure (4:24-27)

B. The Covenant of Grace (4:26-27)

1. Its origin

Revelation 21:2

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

2. Its offspring

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.

II. The Figure (4:24-27)

B. The Covenant of Grace (4:26-27)

3. Its offer

Romans 4:16

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

III. The Application (4:28-31)

Galatians 4:28-31

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.

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.

III. The Application (4:28-31)

A. Comparing Isaac to Christians (4:28)

1. Supernatural births

John 3:3, 5

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

2. Separate lifestyles

III. The Application (4:28-31)

B. Comparing Ishmael to false teachers (4:29)

1. Ishmael opposed Isaac

Genesis 21:8-9

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.

2. Judaizers oppose salvation by grace alone

Acts 15:1

And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

III. The Application (4:28-31)

C. Comparing Abraham to the Galatians (4:30-31)

1. Remove the false teachers (v 30)

Genesis 21:10, 12

10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.

12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

2. Realize that you are the children of God's promise (v 31)

John 8:36

**If the Son therefore shall make you free,
ye shall be free indeed.**