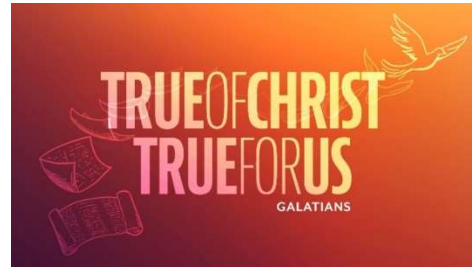


October 15, 2023
Sermon Discussion Guide
Galatians 4:21-31
Preacher: Jerrod



SUMMARY

Big Idea: Legalism makes us slaves, the gospel makes us sons

Our verses kind of function as a closing illustration to the argument beginning in 3:1, and therefore serve to enhance or bolster an unwavering rejection of works-based religion that enslaves, in favor of the supremacy of promise and sonship. Paul appeals to Genesis, to Abraham. Specifically, to the two paths taken to bring about the promised son - Hagar (the slave woman) or Sarah (the free woman). Hagar was the path of unbelief that God would fulfill his promise, the path of works and slavery. Sarah, by contrast, was God's chosen miraculous path to bring about his promises. Spiritually speaking, all humanity falls into one of these two camps, one of these two families.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. List some rules, regulations, and behaviors that Christians imagine can make themselves acceptable before God. (either "do this", or "do not do this")
2. Why do these "laws" have such a persistent appeal?
3. Can "faith" be turned into a "law"?

Read Galatians 4:21-31

4. List out the various elements of symbolism Paul incorporates.
 - a. As you see fit - you can use the diagram of interpretation to discuss proper methods as well as the dangers/pitfalls of skipping "steps".
5. What contrasts does Paul highlight between the two women?
 - a. The two sons?
6. How does Paul use the history of Abraham's two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, to illustrate the supremacy of promise over law? (ref Gen 15-17; 21)
7. In verse 29, Paul makes the connection that these Judaizers, through their false teaching, are like Ishmael, persecuting the children of promise through their false teaching.
 - a. In what ways have you seen or experienced first-hand, conflict and misunderstanding between legalistic Christians and those who know God's grace and are trusting in His promises? How was it handled? What was the outcome?
 - b. How can "free" Christians guard against their own kind of self-righteousness, feeling superior to legalists?
8. How does this passage relate to the current events happening in Israel? Does it?
 - a. How do you weigh and apply the meaning and significance of the spiritual realities of which Paul speaks here with, as Jerrod mentioned, being disciplined by news networks or televangelists?
9. What from the sermon was most encouraging to you? Most challenging?