



# GALATIANS

VERSE-BY-VERSE



SESSION 25 | OVERVIEW, PART 7 | GALATIANS 4:21-5:12

## A PROPOSED OUTLINE

1. Galatians 1:1-12 | Paul Introduces His Gospel and the Dilemma of the Letter. – see session 19
2. Galatians 1:13-24 | Paul's Theological Journey prior to the Mystery – see session 20
3. Galatians 2:1-21 | Paul's Theological Journey after the Mystery – see session 21
4. Galatians 3:1- 5:12 | Paul Confronts the Judaizers and their Theology
  - 4.1. Galatians 3:1-5 | The Bewitched Galatians
  - 4.2. Galatians 3:6-4:7 | The Theology of Pauline Salvation.
  - 4.3. Galatians 4:8-20 | Paul's Personal Remarks to the Galatians
  - 4.4. Galatians 4:21-5:6 | Paul's Final Theological Remarks
    - 4.4.1. Galatians 4:21-5:1 | The Illustration of Abraham's Two Sons
    - 4.4.2. Galatians 5:2-6 | Law or Grace but Nothing In-between
  - 4.5. Galatians 5:7-12 | The Galatians Poisoned by an Outsider

## GALATIANS 4:21-5:6 | PAUL'S FINAL THEOLOGICAL REMARKS

### GALATIANS 4:21-5:1 | THE ILLUSTRATION OF ABRAHAM'S TWO SONS

- Talk about obedience to the law is easy, but Christian teachers are often guilty of ignoring the details.
  - To these, Paul asks, **Do you now hear the law?** (v. 21).
  - Any close study of the law reveals that the reality of the teaching of the law is far different from the standard-fare teaching *about* the law.
    - Example 1: *tithing laws are unbelievably different from tithing sermons.*
    - Example 2: *sabbath laws are unbelievably different that "Christian Sabbath" teachings.*
- The heart of this passage: *there is an option to obedience to the law!* (vv. 22-26)
  - Paul uses the illustration of Hagar and Sarah, and lets us know he speaks in **allegory** (v. 24).
  - Allegorically, Hagar's offspring is "of the flesh" and Sarah's offspring is "by promise."
  - We can live in bondage, or in freedom.
- There will always be a freedom that cries out from the heart, but a tyranny toward those who long to be free (vv. 27-29).
- In verses 30-32 Paul gives strong instruction when he commands, **cast out the bondwoman and her son**, quoting from Genesis 21:10. In no uncertain terms, Paul says, *we are free!*
- What is one who has been given freedom to do? He is to **Stand fast!** (v. 1). It is so easy to be **entangled again with the yoke of bondage**, whether that yoke be the Law or the pagan influences that once held the Galatians.

## GALATIANS 5:2-6 | LAW OR GRACE BUT NOTHING IN-BETWEEN

- These are some of the strongest words in Scripture. They let us know in no uncertain terms that works are not allowed in receiving or continuing in salvation. It is grace and nothing else.
- What we must take as foundational:
  - The Law is an “all or nothing” proposition (v. 3).
  - One who chooses to go the law route cannot claim to have placed their faith in Jesus Christ (v. 2).
  - One who claims justification (of any sort) in the law is outside of the boundaries of the grace message (v. 4).
- What we must take as instructional:
  - The Jewish people (“we”) once had a **hope of righteousness** that was *by obedience*. But now they move away from that to the **hope of righteousness by faith** (v. 5).
  - There is no work available that **availeth any thing** in Christ (v. 5).
- What we must do as applicational:
  - We must reject all forms of “Christian” teaching which require works of any nature in order to either have or prove salvation.
  - Because faith is *unseen* we cannot force it to be *seen* in order to be real.
    - From *GotQuestions.org*: “Works are not the cause of salvation; works are the evidence of salvation. Faith in Christ always results in good works. The person who claims to be a Christian but lives in willful disobedience to Christ has a false or dead faith and is not saved.” (<https://www.gotquestions.org/faith-without-works-dead.html> - accessed April 2, 2020).
    - Statements like this are common in evangelicalism but do not align with Pauline teaching about the *gift* of salvation. Such gift is not given on the basis of future works.

## GALATIANS 5:7-12 | THE GALATIANS POISONED

- The Galatians *started well* and **did run well** for a time, but eventually deception came in (v. 7).
  - This deception did not come from Paul (the likely reference to **him that calleth you**, as in Gal. 1:6).
  - Deception is the chief *modus operandi* of Satan. He will use *whomever* and *whatever* to bring us to deception.
- It only takes a *shred of untruth* to destroy the entire truth. Thus Paul warns about **a little leaven** (v. 9).
- Paul has confidence in the Galatians (and ultimately in the truth), and knows that the one(s) bringing untruth will be punished (v. 10).
- Paul gives the strongest words possible to say he is not culpable in this teaching (v. 10) and that he desires the strongest punishment possible removal of the instigators of the problem (v. 11).
- Questions for consideration:
  - Have you allowed any deception to come into your theology?
  - Would you recognize deception if it did come (it is always subtle)?
  - Is your knowledge of the *real* strong enough to keep you from being fooled by the *counterfeit*?