

## Galatians 4

### Introduction.

- A. The churches of Galatia were being pressured by Judaizers to go back under the Law of Moses.
- B. The Apostle Paul sharply rebukes them.
  - 1. Do they want to live under Law as slaves?
  - 2. Or do they want to live under Grace as freedmen?
- C. At the end of chapter 3, he points out we are all children of God.
  - 1. Regardless of race, ethnicity, status, or gender.
  - 2. In faith, we have become children of Abraham.

### I. The example of the heir (1-7).

- A. While the heir is underage, he is subject to the control of a guardian.
  - 1. Although he owns the estate, he is no different from a slave.
  - 2. At the set time, he is longer under a guardian.
- B. In the same way, we were once slaves to worldly principles.
  - 1. Whether Jews under the Law or Gentiles following moral codes.
  - 2. At the set time, God sent Jesus.
    - a. Born of a woman (fully human).
    - b. Born under the Law.
    - c. To redeem those under law (Mosaic or otherwise).
    - d. To usher us into his family.
- C. The confirmation of the Spirit.
  - 1. In our hearts.
  - 2. Crying out, "Abba, Father."
    - a. We are his children.
    - b. We are his heirs.

### II. Falling back into bondage (8-11).

- A. Before salvation, worshipped pagan gods.
- B. Salvation brought:
  - 1. Knowing God.
  - 2. Being known by God.
- C. How is it they can willingly desire to return to the old ways?
  - 1. Legalism?
  - 2. Grace?

### III. Paul's urgent appeal (12-20).

- A. Become like him.
  - 1. He was torn out of legalism into grace.
  - 2. They, too, must reject legalism and return to grace.
- B. They had loved Paul.
  - 1. Not rejecting him because of his feeble condition.
  - 2. First missionary journey (Acts 14).
    - a. Pisidian Antioch, Lystra, Derbe.
    - b. Stoned in Lystra.
    - c. Jews had won over the crowd.
  - 3. They would have even torn out their eyes for him.
- C. Now they have turned against Paul.
  - 1. Because of the teachings of the Judaizers.
  - 2. Paul had possibly warned them on his return visit (Acts 16).
  - 3. They did not want to hear the truth.
- D. It's good to be zealous:
  - 1. For the truth.
  - 2. Not for a lie.
  - 3. The Judaizers want them to become their prize.
- E. They are Paul's children in Christ, but he must birth them again.

### IV. Hagar and Sarah (21-31).

- A. Two covenants.
  - 1. Hagar represents slavery: Ishmael born in the ordinary way.
  - 2. Sarah represents freedom: Isaac born by the promise.
- B. Hagar represents Mt. Sinai, the Law, and earthly Jerusalem.
- C. Sarah represents the heavenly Jerusalem, mother of all who are saved.
- D. Application.
  - 1. We are children of promise, like Isaac.
  - 2. Ishmael persecuted Isaac, as Judaism persecuted Christians (Gen 21:9).
  - 3. The Law and the Promise cannot coexist.
  - 4. We are children of the free woman.
    - a. Children of promise.
    - b. Children of grace.