



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of December 5 & 6, 2020

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Galatian 4:21-31

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiikaichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

In today's passage, the Apostle Paul uses the Scriptures, the Torah, to reveal to his hearers that those who seek to justify themselves by the Law are not sons of the promised line of Sarah and Isaac, but are actually slaves according to the flesh, in the lineage of Hagar and Ishmael. Paul smashes the pride of the Jews and helps us to see that only the truly humble will experience the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Dan said that for the Jewish people born under the Mosaic law, there developed a cultural superiority; a pride that arose from the fact that God's grace came upon the Jews as God's chosen people. In contrast to this, how does a true understanding of the gospel create humility within God's people rather than pride?
2. In our passage today, the Apostle Paul used the Scriptures (the Torah) and not popular opinion or personal experience, to argue against those who falsely exalted the Law and wanted everyone to be enslaved under it. Pastor Dan said that *"the best arguments for sound theology and how to*

live the Christian life come from the Bible” How much emphasis do you put on the Bible to guide and direct your life vs. popular opinions, personal preferences and how we appear to the watching world? How can you grow in your trust and reliance upon God’s Word?

3. Genesis chapters 16 and 21 tell the story of Sarah and Hagar, and their two sons, Isaac and Ishmael. God’s promise to Abraham, that he would be the father of many nations, was to come through Sarah and Isaac. However, because Abraham did not trust God, he and Sarah decided to help the process by having Abraham lie with Hagar so that Ishmael was conceived. How does the Apostle Paul use this story from Genesis to show the false teachers of his day that they were not children of the promise, but were actually children of the slave?
4. The Jews who were the most religious, most zealous for adherence to the law were the ones most blind when the Son of God entered into their midst. Even today, why do you think the people who are most religious (those who are the most legalistic) have the hardest time understanding and accepting the truth of the Gospel?
5. Since the time of Christ, why do you think the most downtrodden, helpless, powerless, impoverished people have found it easier to understand, accept and believe the truth of the Gospel? What does this tell you about the pride in your own heart?