

Galatians – Lesson 25

Galatians 4:21-31

January 26, 2025

This morning we will be looking at **ch. 4:21-31**>>

In our passage this morning, Paul is returning to his defense of the gospel of grace>>

Let's remember that Paul has been making a distinction between ...*the works of the law*... and faith for obtaining the promises of God>>

By the time we come to this passage, Paul has explained that being under the Law is slavery [bondage] to all the regulations of the Law>>

<<as opposed by the freedom of faith in the Work of Christ>>

[Let's note that both depend upon works>>the only question is: *Whose works?*]

In **v. 21-31** Paul will use the Old Testament example of Hagar and Sarah to illustrate the distinction between slavery to the Law and freedom in Christ>>

In **v. 21**, Paul begins with this question>>

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law?

Paul is concerned that the believers have forgotten the result of depending upon human effort instead of upon God's grace>>

Let's turn to Genesis to familiarize ourselves with this historic event>>

Gen. 12:1-4 God calls Abraham>>

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."...>>

12:4 Abraham obeys by faith>>

So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him...>>

12:10 a problem arises>>

Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.

12:11–13 the result of Abraham's decision>>

It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 "Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me...>>

12:17 God's faithful intervention>>

But the Lord struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

13:3–4 Abraham returns to ... where he was in the beginning...>>

[Abraham] went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning...>>

15:4 The Lord promised to give Abraham a son>>

...the Word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This man [Eliezer] will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir...>>

16:1a But Sarah continued to be barren>>

Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children...>>

16:1b Who is Hagar>>

But [Sarah] had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar...>>

16:2a Sarah's solution for a son>>

*...so [Sarah] said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps **I can build** a family through her."...>>*

16:2b And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai...>>**3:17**

17:15-16 The Lord reiterates His promise>>

*Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife...**16** "I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."...>>*

17:18 But Abraham objects>>

*"Oh that Ishmael might live before You!" **19** But God said, "**No**, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him...>>*

21:9-13 The conflict between Sarah and Hagar>>

*Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking. **10** Therefore she said to Abraham, "Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac." **11** The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son [Ishmael]. **12** But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named...>>*

*What have we learned from this account that relates to **Galatians**>>*

NO SOW NEXT SUNDAY