

Thinking Biblically

Galatians 4:19-31

Intro: In our study last week of verses 12-18 we saw how unhappy the Apostle Paul was concerning the believers at Galatia turning from the _____ in Christ he and they had experienced in the past. He reminded them that as a Jew and Pharisee, he had been a strict advocate of the OT Law so as to obtain salvation, until the day he met Christ on the Damascus road. He also reflected on the real reason the Judaizers had attempted to lead them into _____. In our study this morning we see Paul explain what it means to really live under the OT Law's authority.

I. Paul expresses his concern and _____ to be there at Galatia to help them face to face

Vs 19-20

A. **Vs 19** Paul looked at the believers at Galatia as his spiritual _____ that he had shared the Gospel with

1. *My little children, of whom I travail in birth again,*

2. *Until Christ be formed in you-Paul's ultimate _____ was Christlikeness in the Believers at Galatia*

B. **Vs 20** Paul earnestly expressed his _____ to be with them -*I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.*

1. *They had lost much by his absence; they had changed their views; they had in some measure become alienated from him; and he wishes that he might be again with them, as he was before, he would hope to accomplish much more by his personal presence than he could by letter. Barnes NT Notes*

2. *Change my voice-a face-to-face is much better than writing a letter. Being there in person would allow Paul to address the need as it _____ was, not as he assumed it to be.*

II. Paul explains what it really means to be under the _____ of the OT Law **Vs 21-28**

A. The _____ - *Tell me, you who want to live under the law, do you know what the law actually says? Vs 21*

1. Too often Believers adhere to some "religious teaching" without ever checking it's _____ with the Scripture.

2. Living Biblically requires us to check all "religious teaching" in light of the Scriptures before we _____ it as "Gospel Truth"

B. The Abrahamic Chronology is used to _____ what it means to be "under the Law"

Vs 22-23

1. _____ yrs. old-Abraham called of God to leave his homeland and go to Canaan, and is promised to be the father of a huge family

2. _____ yrs. old-Through impatience on Sarah's part, she tells Abraham to go sleep with her handmaid, Hagar, and thus Sarah would have a child by proxy-this was _____ God's plan for giving them their child

3. _____ yrs. old-Hagar has a male child, and Abraham names him Ishmael *Gen 6*

4. _____ yrs. old-God's timing is nearing fulfillment, and He reminds Abraham and Sarah of His promise to give them a son

5. _____ yrs. old-Isaac is born. This creates a problem, because now Ishmael is _____ as the first born by the legitimate son Isaac. (A problem created by Abraham and Sarah's unwillingness to wait on God's timing.). The only remedy for the conflict is to send Hagar and Ishmael away. *Gen 11*

6. *The son of the slave wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfillment of his promise. Vs 23 NLT*
- C. The allegory of the two sons of Abraham **Vs 24-28** (allegory-the symbolic representation of an event, other than what it _____ is)
1. The two mothers and sons are representative of the two _____ made by God
 2. **Vs 24** Hagar/Ishmael represent:
 - a. Mt. Sinai, the place where God gave Moses the OT Law
 - b. Paul associates the OT Law with _____
 3. **Vs 25** Mt Sinai/earthly Jerusalem represents the OT Law, and keeps everyone that submits to the OT Law in _____
 4. **Vs.26** Sarah/Isaac represent:
 - a. _____ found in God's Grace, not in trying to keep the OT Law
 - b. **Vs 27** Paul quotes *Isaiah 54:1*
 - c. **Vs 28** *The children of promise*-the promise and Grace of God (Isaac's miraculous birth), _____ the working of man (Abraham + Hagar=Ishmael)

III. Paul makes application of the Scripture lesson he has just given **Vs 29-31**

- A. **Vs 29** As Ishmael _____ Isaac, so now the Judaizers were trying to sow _____ and disharmony among the believers at Galatia by trying to inject keeping the OT Law as necessary for salvation
 1. *Born after the flesh*-Ishmael was the result of man's works _____ from God
 2. *Born after the Spirit*-Isaac was the _____ of God the Holy Spirit because it took a real _____ to bring about his birth (Abraham 100 yrs. old, and Sarah 90 yrs. old).
- B. **Vs 30-31** As Ishmael was _____ from Isaac, so the OT Law is to have no bearing on one's salvation and walk with Christ. The believer is a _____ of the Grace of God, not the OT Law.

Concl. Paul is attempting to show the Galatian Believers that they need to _____ themselves of those who are trying to place them under spiritual bondage, when they have been set free by the Grace of God. They should be living Biblically, not according to the opinions of others.