

# The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians

Sunday, December 17, 2017 Pastor Tom Gang

The Galatian believers were confused in their faith after adopting the lies of false brethren. Paul, as any good parent, desired for his spiritual children to \_\_\_\_\_ in the grace of God. Unfortunately, they were now withdrawing back into the OT law. The controversy between the gospel and legalism had its roots in the Jewish patriarch Abraham. With the opposition claiming they were his true heirs, a \_\_\_\_\_ argument ensued. In today's text, the wise apostle applied an allegorical interpretation from an important part of patriarchal history. Here, the Galatian churches are challenged to receive an \_\_\_\_\_ from the life of the very OT saint both they and their false teachers admired.

## AN ALLEGORY FROM ABRAHAM – GALATIANS 4:19-31

### 1. Understanding an allegory

- a. Allegory – A metaphor; an \_\_\_\_\_ representing something or someone else; a symbolic expression of a deeper meaning portrayed by a differing yet similar representation.
- b. The notoriously \_\_\_\_\_ use of the term as it concerns false doctrine
  - The allegorical method of Bible interpretation – A \_\_\_\_\_ interpretation of scripture traced back to the corrupt “church father” Adamantius Origen. His crooked approach was to make the scripture symbolic for whatever he wanted it to be in order to manipulate his followers. This type of deception is what the false teachers were employing with the Galatian churches.
- c. The profoundly \_\_\_\_\_ use of the term as it concerns today's text
  - Paul uses examples from the life of “father” Abraham found in Genesis 16-21. His allegory is powerful because it brings sound spiritual meaning to an OT historic event as it compares with clear NT truths, with \_\_\_\_\_ private interpretation applied.

### 2. The historic events – Galatians 4:19-23

- a. Pauls' parental anguish – verses 19-21
  - He is their concerned spiritual parent
  - He had previously disciplined them and has to once \_\_\_\_\_ perform that laborious process
  - He wants to be present with them so they can see his face as he compels them
  - He sincerely doubts they are walking with God; perhaps they are not even saved
  - He provokes them with a question—So, you want to be back under the law. Do you even know what the law says?

b. A real-life narrative – verses 22-23; Genesis 12-21

- Abraham is called by God to leave his heathen life and go to the land of Canaan
- God promises him this land and innumerable descendants (through a son)
- Abraham's wife, Sarah, is barren—it would require a miracle for her to have a child
- The promised son has not arrived after years and years of waiting
- Sarah is impatient and devises a \_\_\_\_\_ plan for Abraham to wed the servant Hagar (Agar)
- Hagar gets pregnant, yet Sarah is now jealous
- Their home life is a wreck so Sarah throws Hagar out
- The Lord intervenes and allows her to return; she has a son named Ishmael
- God renews his \_\_\_\_\_ to Abraham and tells him and Sarah they will indeed have a son
- Abraham is to name the boy Isaac
- Isaac is supernaturally born of Sarah in her old age
- A rivalry begins as Ishmael mocks Isaac; the home is again in a mess
- The only solution is very costly—Hagar and Ishmael \_\_\_\_\_ be cast out \_\_\_\_\_

3. The spiritual truths – Galatians 4:24-31

a. History that cuts to the heart of the matter – verses 24-29

- These opposites are actually an allegory of two covenants:

The old covenant of Law

The new covenant of grace

Mount Sinai

Mount Zion

Hagar the bondwoman

Sarah the freewoman

Earthly Jerusalem in bondage  
politically (and spiritually)

Heavenly Jerusalem which is free and full of glory

Ishmael born after the \_\_\_\_\_

Isaac born supernaturally by God's \_\_\_\_\_

- The freewoman and her \_\_\_\_\_ are the answer to the promise of God
- In this sense \_\_\_\_\_ believer is like Isaac—a child of promise

b. The allegorical \_\_\_\_\_ - verses 30-31; Genesis 21:10

- The allegory: The bondwoman's child is a type of the \_\_\_\_\_  
The freewoman's child is a type of the \_\_\_\_\_

- The judgment: The bondwoman and her child must be permanently cast out. They are \_\_\_\_\_ heirs according to the promise

All believers are heirs just like the freewoman and her son!

4. The doctrinal conclusion

- As it was impossible for the bondwoman and her son to be heirs together with the freewoman and her son, it is equally impossible to be laboring under the *law* while enjoying freedom in *grace*. These two \_\_\_\_\_ exist together.