

index cards: 90 seconds to answer this, "How are you doing, spiritually?"

Memory scriptures: Gal. 2:20; 3:26,27; 4:6-7

review outline of Galatians

Apostleship 1-2

Arguments 3-4

Applications 5-6

from last class what arguments did Paul make in chapter 3?

- 1) Law or faith: which gave you Spirit? (v2-5)
- 2) Law or faith: which makes sons of Abraham? (v6-9)
- 3) Law or faith: which promises a curse? (v10-14)
- 4) Example of man's will (v15-18)
- 5) Why was law given, anyway? (v19-20)
- 6) Is the law competing against the promises? (v21-22)
- 7) the law, only a custodian (v23-26)

#### I. Gal 4:1-7 The Son and the Spirit

In ch. 4, Paul continues his arguments to persuade the Galatians to stand firm in their spiritual freedom. God's children have come of age. Why go back to infancy (under law)?

v4 "set time"

Romans: roads for travel & peace throughout the empire

Greeks: common language

Jews: synagogues & LXX (Greek version of OT)

bankrupt climate of religion / philosophy - longing for something better

Recall the big pix of Scripture: The door to Eden hadn't completely closed and God promised that a snake-crusher would be born of woman (Genesis 3). By the time we get to chapter 12 the promise has been narrowed to come from Abraham's family. When we get to chapter 49, it narrows further; now from the tribe of Judah. Fast forward several hundred years, and the promise is narrowed further; from the line of David ( 2 Samuel 7). God's promises fulfilled in Jesus!

v5 illustration changes from maturing child to adoption  
adoption included 1) a new name, 2) an inheritance, and 3)  
cancellation of previous debts and obligations.

“These verses are full of the language of Exodus” (Paul for Everyone: Galatians & Thessalonians by NT Wright, p.45).

Israel enslaved by Egypt // agitators enslaved by law

Israel called God's son // new Israel sons of God

Passover brought freedom // Jesus' death brought freedom

50 days later, law @ Sinai // 50 days later, Spirit @ Pentecost

pillar of God's presence, filled tabernacle // now “into our hearts”!

In Exodus, God's name // intimacy of “Abba!”

v7 shift from you (pl) to you (singular!)

conclusion: not babies or slaves . . . sons!

## II. Galatians 4:8-11      The True God and the false gods

v8-11 “The picture of the wilderness wanderings lies behind Paul's impassioned appeal in this passage” (Wright p.48). The Galatian Christians have been redeemed from slavery yet they're considering returning to Egypt. “On the face of it, this is an astonishing claim. The Christian aren't starting to worship their old pagan deities; they are wanting to become Jews” (ibid p. 49).

v10 “. . . the point of these Jewish festivals was that they all looked forward to the great act of redemption which God would one day accomplish. So how can they keep them when God's future has already arrived in Jesus Christ?” (ibid p. 51).

## III. Gal 4:12-20      Paul's appeal to his children

Paul has appealed to authority and arguments. Now he's just heart to heart begging!

v15 eyes?      Acts 9:18 scales fell  
                  Acts 14:19 stoned / left for dead  
                  Acts 23:2-5 failed to recognize High Priest  
                  Rom 16:22 use of secretary  
                  Gal 6:11 large letters

concl: we don't really know

v16 how eager are you to embrace the truth? Do you welcome the messenger? Or view them as an “enemy”?  
My own turning point with discipleship: worth vs. work

v20 “perplexed” originally meant “not having a way to cross a river”

#### IV. Galatians 4:21-31 Tale of two sons

Allegory of the two sons - are you okay with this?

Consider the company that Paul keeps:

Matt 2, Matthew takes a passage from Israel's history and says it pictures boy Jesus coming out of Egypt

Matt 12, Jesus says Jonah & big fish pictures his death / resurrection

1 Cor 10, crossing Red Sea // baptism

1 Tim 5, feeding the ox // paying the elders

Heb 3, wilderness wanderings // Christian life

1 Pet 3, Peter says the flood of Noah symbolizes baptism

Allegory also common among early Christian writers

v23 the key: “When Abraham tried to do it for himself, the result was ultimately cast out. When Abraham trusted God's promise and waited for God's blessing, the heir was born. Such is the picture of works verses faith” (Thirteen Lessons on Galatians by Kenny Boles, p. 50).

#### Tale of two sons

<u>Ishmael</u> (Jerusalem-based agitators)	<u>Isaac</u> (Galatian Christians)
flesh	promise
Mother - Hagar	Mother - Sarah
slave	free
Mt Sinai	(Mt Zion)
Present Jerusalem	Jerusalem above
is slavery	is free
born for slavery	born for freedom
Persecutor	Persecuted
trusting in “fleshly” identity	trusting God by Spirit
will be cast out	will inherit

“The Jews had always placed great stock in being the offspring of Abraham. Their reliance upon this physical ancestry was now, ironically, the very thing that made them not his heirs” (Boles p.52).

“Those who believe the gospel are, like Isaac, promise-people, the free-family of God” (Wright p.60).

v27 Isaiah 54:1 This passage (54:1-8) pictures physical Israel as a widow rejected by her husband (God) in the exile to Babylon. Yet it also sees a time in the future with spiritual baby-boom! What's the context? What happened right before this in Isaiah? ch.53 the suffering servant made this all possible. Gal 4:4

Index cards: If my answer goes in the direction of a checklist, focusing on my performance, (beware!) there's a danger I'm trusting in the wrong things for salvation. If my answer is focused on what God has done, or continues to do, (rejoice!) my identify is based on faith in God's grace.

That's not to say our actions don't matter. More about that in chapters 5 & 6.

Chapter 4 lesson: Gal. 5:1