

FREE AT LAST! THE MESSAGE OF GALATIANS
February 11, 2010

The Promising Gospel – Galatians 4:21-31

- 4:21-23** **I. Abraham had two sons by two women.**
“Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons...”
- A. Ishmael
cf. Gen. 16
1. Child of slavery.
“...one by the slave woman...”
2. Child of nature.
“His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way...”
cf. Mt. 3:9
- B. Isaac
cf. Gen. 21:1-6
1. Child of freedom.
“...and the other by the free woman.”
cf. Gal. 5:1, 13; I Cor. 9:19; II Cor. 3:17; John 8:32
2. Child of promise.
“...but his son by the free woman was born as a result of a promise...”
cf. Rom. 9:6-9
- :24-27** **II. Abraham’s free child is not who some think he is.**
“These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants.”
- :24, 25** A. The slave child is the unbelieving covenant child of Israel!
1. Child of the law.
“One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar.”
cf. John 8:31-44
2. Child of Jerusalem.
“Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.”
cf. Luke 13:34, 35; 19:41-44; 21:5, 6, 20-24; 23:26-31
- :26, 27** B. The free child is the one who believes the promise.
1. Child of free Jerusalem above.
“But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.”
cf. Rev. 21:1-4; Phil. 3:20; Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14
2. Child in exile.
“For it is written: ‘Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labor pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.’”
cf. Isa. 54:1; I Peter 1:1; 2:11; Heb. 11:9, 13
- :28-31** **III. Abraham’s true children, take your stand!**
- :28** A. You are the children of Abraham.
“Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise,”
cf. Gal 3:7, 9, 14, 22, 29; 4:5-7, 28; 5:6; 6:15, 16
- You are loved.
 - You belong.

- You are an heir.
- :29** B. You will be persecuted by children of slavery.
“At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.”
cf. Gen. 21:9; Matt. 10:17-20
- Don’t be shocked.
 - Don’t worry.
 - Don’t retaliate.
- :30** C. You will not share your inheritance with children of slavery.
“But what does the Scripture say? ‘Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.’”
cf. Gen. 21:10-13
- Don’t trade places.
 - Do evangelize.
- :31** D. You must stop acting like a slave.
“Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.”
Stop:
- worrying about whether He has forgiven you.
 - focusing on disciplines rather than Him.
 - envying others’ positions or possessions.
 - taking pride in your moral performance.
 - forsaking the gospel of God’s unmerited favor.