



Title | Faith and Works
Series | Witness for the Defense
Text | Galatians 4:21-31
By | Jeff Dover
Date | May 18, 2025

Sermon Notes

Galatians 4:21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written, *“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.”* 28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? *“Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.”* 31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. ESV

Big Idea:

Galatians 4:28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ESV

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Galatians 4:21-31. In this passage, Paul makes the point that one cannot blend two different theologies, a practice known as syncretism. What are some phrases Paul uses to draw a sharp distinction between works and faith, showing they cannot be blended together? How does this relate to Paul's view of syncretism?

Tuesday:

Read Galatians 4:22-23. Paul refers to Hagar's son Ishmael as, "flesh" while Sarah's son Isaac is referred to as, "promise." What do you think Paul meant by these terms? How does this relate to Paul's view of syncretism?

Wednesday:

Read Galatians 4:25-26. In these verses, Paul contrasts slavery to works with freedom in Christ. How does this relate to Paul's view of syncretism?

Thursday:

Read Galatians 4:30. This verse refers to Hagar and Ishmael being cast out of Abraham's camp and family, while Sarah and Isaac remained. How does this relate to Paul's view of syncretism?

Friday:

Read Galatians 4:31. Finally, Paul reminds us that we are children of promise, just like Isaac was. How does this relate to Paul's view of syncretism?

Daily Prayer:

Father, may I always keep in mind that my salvation is not dependent upon my works. I thank you for loving me fully and unconditionally. Amen.

If you would like to have the daily reflection and application emailed to you, scan the QR code or email info@moonvalleybible.org.

