

Chapter 4:

vs. 1-7 Paul compares mankind's bondage to the law to a child being under watch, even though they will inherit the estate. They are not ready or able to handle the responsibility. In the same way, man was not yet ready for the responsibility and privilege of being free from the regulations that controlled us.

God waited until mankind was ready and would appreciate the freedom and redemption before sending His Son, to be born of Mary. Jesus redeemed the world and freed us from bondage to the law. Now we are entitled to be called the Children of God!

vs. 8-21

Paul now explains to them that they are willingly going back to bondage under the law. They had been freed from that and were considered Children of God; do they really want to give all that up?

Paul reminds them of the love that they had, had for him and how well they cared for him. He explains that he is their friend and is only trying to help them do what is right. He hopes that he is not trying in vain.

Paul tells them that those who are leading them back into bondage are only doing it to gain followers; they are not doing it for the good of the Galatians.

Paul expresses his concern and desire for the Galatians to come back to the message of the gospel and mentions that it pains him that they have fallen like they have.

vs. 21-31

Paul now uses an illustration to show the Galatians the difference between what he is teaching and these other teachers. He reminds them that Abraham had 2 sons. One was by Abraham's doing and became a troublemaker (Hagar's son, Ishmael [see Genesis 16; 21:1-14]). The other son (Sarah's son, Isaac) was in answer to God's promise and he received the blessing of God.

Paul states that the other teachers are just like Hagar's son; they are jealous and they are trying to stir up trouble; but they will be punished for it. Paul, on the other hand, is showing them the way to freedom and the inheritance that God offers to His own.

Paul's quote of Isaiah 54:1; is in reference to Sarah not having any children and then having numerous descendants.

COMMENTARY

GALATIANS 5:

vs. 1-12:

Paul reminds them that Christ died to set us free. If we willingly go back and take on the rituals and ordinances of Judaism; then we are turning our back on the redemption that Jesus has secured and we are no longer saved, but are in bondage.

Paul is perturbed with those who are causing others to stumble and he tells the Galatians that these false teachers will pay for their deeds. The Galatians, however, are to allow their faith to justify them and give them righteousness as God has promised to all who believe.

vs. 13-26:

Paul tells them that their freedom from the law does not give them license to do all manner of evil. Rather, they are to serve and love one another, living by the Spirit and not according to the ways of the world. The world destroys one another by tearing each other down and taking advantage of one another. This is contrary to God's will for our lives and will only lead to these people missing out on the Kingdom of God.

Those who live and are led by the Spirit are not under the law, rather they will find: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control being developed in their life. These have crucified the passions and desires of the

COMMENTARY

GALATIANS 6:

vs. 1-10

Paul teaches us that we have the responsibility to help one another overcome the temptations in life that we are faced with. We need to be careful as we're helping others though, that we don't fall into the same trap!

Paul warns us about pride and tells us to handle for ourselves the little problems in life. The major problems, though, are ones we should let others help us with. When one helps us and teaches us, we should help them in whatever way they have need and we are able.

Paul reminds us that each person will be given what they deserve in the day of judgement. If we live by the Spirit, having faith in Christ, then we will reap eternal life. Otherwise, we will reap destruction. Seeing that eternal life is so worthy of a prize, we should never give up doing what is right and good, especially when we have the chance to help our fellow Christians.

vs. 11-18

Paul concludes by telling the Galatians that the false teachers who are trying to get them back into the Jewish laws and rituals, are just doing it for appearance and the praise of men. He says that these false teachers are taking the easy way out and are trying to avoid persecution.

Paul states that he has already been through persecution for the sake of Christ and bears the marks on his body. He would rather boast about Christ and the salvation He gives, then anything that he (Paul) had done or would ever do! This salvation that Christ offers, is the only thing that will count when Christ returns.

STUDY GUIDE

GALATIANS 4:

1. What were we in slavery under, when we were children?
2. What was God's Son, born to do?
3. What were the Galatians turning back to?
4. How did the Galatians first welcome Paul?
5. What does Paul say about zealotry in verse 18?
6. How long was Paul again in the pains of childbirth?
7. By whom did Abraham have 2 sons? (see vs. 22)
8. How was the son of the free woman born?
9. What do the 2 women represent?
10. What does Hagar stand for?
11. What does Paul say about the Jerusalem that is above?
12. What did the son born in the ordinary way do, at that time?

BONUS:

1. What does being a Son and heir of God, mean?
2. What are ways that Christians become slaves again to what they had become free from?

STUDY GUIDE

GALATIANS 5:

1. As we stand firm, what are we not to let happen?
2. What is the only thing that counts, in Christ Jesus?
3. What did Paul say that the ones who had cut in on the Galatians, were doing?
4. Who does Paul say, will pay the penalty?
5. In what is the entire law summed up?
6. What does Paul warn them against, lest they destroy each other?
7. What will we not do, if we live by the Spirit?
8. What are the obvious acts of the sinful nature?
9. What is said about those who live like this in verse 21?
10. What is the fruit of the Spirit?
11. What have those who belong to Christ, crucified?
12. What does Paul tell us not to become in verse 26?

BONUS:

1. What does legalism concern itself about today?
2. How are Christians enticed into legalism?
3. What value can you see in the fruit of the Spirit compared to the acts of the sinful nature?

STUDY GUIDE

GALATIANS 6:

1. What should we do, if someone is caught in a sin?
2. How can we fulfill the law of Christ?
3. What and with whom, should those who receive instruction share?
4. What do those who sow to the sinful nature and those who sow to please the Spirit, reap?
5. What are we not to become weary in doing, and why?
6. To whom, should we especially do good?
7. What do those who want to make a good impression outwardly, doing?
8. What are they trying to avoid?
9. What did Paul say he would boast about?
10. What counts?
11. What does Paul bear on his body?
12. What did Paul wish to be with the Galatians spirit?

BONUS:

1. How should one deal with a fellow Christian who is sinning?
2. Is “doing good, especially to the family of believers”, prejudice? Is it wrong? Explain.
3. What are things that Christians might boast about, other than the fact that they are saved by the blood of Christ?