

02 May

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: The Book of Galatians – Week 9

 Let's hear your story

1. Have you ever had to explain to a friend or family member the difference between Abraham's two sons; Isaac and Ishmael?
2. According to v.22; Abraham had two sons; how does Paul differentiate between the two mothers? (**Slave woman; free woman**).
3. How was the son of the free woman born? (**Through a promise v.23**)
4. Who was Hagar according to v.24?
(**Hagar is from mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery.**)

 Let's go deeper

5. According to v.28; what are born-again believers called? (**Like, Isaac, believers are children of promise**).
6. What does that mean? (**Believers are the children of God by promise and grace; we enter into this blessing through faith in Christ**).
7. According to v.30; what does the scripture say we must do? (**Cast out the slave woman and her son – "salvation by works."**).
8. True or false; we are not children of the slave, but of the free woman? (**True, see v.31**).

 Let's apply this

9. Law and Grace cannot co-exist:

Believers are commanded to get rid of the slave woman and her son. Believers are to rid themselves of any hope that the Mosaic Law or any law they seek to keep can save them. They are to cast out legalism, and embrace God's grace for salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. The more one goes into law, the more one seeks to work for salvation.

- **Do you believe that Jesus Christ's finished work on the cross is complete and perfect for your salvation?**
- **Do you believe you need to add to your salvation?**

SUMMARY:

- **The book of Galatians – No Other Gospel**

Read: Galatians 4:21 – 31

v.21; Many of Paul's converts to Christ were beginning to go back under the Mosaic Law for salvation after they had been saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. They were following the false teaching of the Judaizers and were ready to set aside grace and faith for law and works.

v.22; Ishmael represents law and bondage and Isaac represents grace and freedom. These two boys had the same father, Abraham, but different mothers. Ishmael was Abraham's son through his slave, Hagar. Isaac was his son through Sarah, his wife and a free woman. Each boy took after his mother so that Ishmael was born into slavery and Isaac into freedom.

v.23; Paul tells us why Ishmael was born into slavery and bondage, and why Isaac was born into freedom. Isaac was the son of promise. God promised Abraham that he would have a son through Sarah his wife, who would be the heir to the Abrahamic Covenant. Ishmael was the human solution to the covenant and his birth was of works, not of grace or faith.

v.24 – 28; The two women Hagar and Sarah represent two covenants. The covenant of grace made with Abraham (Abrahamic Covenant), and the law made with Moses (Mosaic Covenant). Believers, who are spiritual seed of Abraham are not like Ishmael, but are like Isaac. Our descent from Abraham is spiritual, not physical. We are not sons by nature. The religion of Ishmael was a religion of works without any divine intervention from God. The religion of Isaac is a religion of grace in that God had taken the initiative to save. Believers are the children of God by promise and we enter into this blessing through faith in Christ. Isaac's birth was due to divine intervention just as the believer's spiritual birth is caused by God's intervention. We, like Isaac, are spiritual seed of Abraham and heirs to the Abrahamic Covenant. We are heirs because we have believed in Christ, but we believe because of God's sovereign promise of grace.

v.29 – 31; Sarah had Hagar and Ishmael put out because they were unbelievers. Unbelief was the reason Ishmael laughed at Isaac, the son of promise and belief, as we read in **Genesis 21:10**; "And she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

The scripture says get rid of legalism! Get rid of any salvation by works! Why? Because those who are of the law will not be heirs to the covenant. Only those who trust in Christ are heirs. Law and grace are incompatible, and cannot co-exist!