



FUNDAMENTAL GRACE BIBLE STUDY

Galatians

27 August 2017

Lesson 19: Chapter 4:21-31

Hearing the Law

1. Review

- a. Paul began chapter 3 regarding our position as sons by the “*hearing of faith*” – Gal3:2-5
- b. The Galatians did not understand their salvation, position and walk were all the product of faith
- c. Due to doubt, Paul uses a **law allegory** to show that even Israel’s new covenant Spirit was given of promise by faith
- d. Warning: This passage, along with Galatians 3, Romans 9-11 and 2 Corinthians 3, are to be handled very carefully to maintain the distinction of the body of Christ from Israel.

2. Framework: Figures of Speech (**Figures of Speech*, E.W. Bullinger, 1899)

- a. *Figures of speech* def. – changing form to increase power of a word & force of expressions
 - i. *Simile* (resemblance) – declaration that one thing is **AS** another – 1Pe1:24
 - ii. *Parable* – a continued simile of things are true/imaginary but possible – Mt13:10-17
 - iii. *Fable* – a continued simile whose events are impossible – 1Tim1:4
 - iv. *Metaphor* (representation) – declaration that one thing **IS** another – Isa40:6; 2Cor4:4
- b. **Allegory** – continued metaphor; comparison by representation or implication – Mt3:10,12
 - i. Figurative discourse; the primary subject is described by secondary subjects
 - ii. In a modern sense, allegory is a fictitious narrative
 - iii. Note: God uses real people in history to reveal greater truths w/out negating truth
 - iv. Since allegory is past tense, it is different than prophecy (i.e. declaring future events)

3. 4:21-27

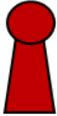
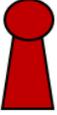
- a. “*Tell me...do ye not hear the law?*” Alright, if you want to be under the law, look what it says...
- b. Paul’s allegory is intended to use what even the law taught regarding Israel’s children of promise
- c. “*For it is written...*” Paul’s allegory uses real people’s lives to teach a greater truth
- d. Framework: “*Abraham had two sons...*” 1) Ishmael, 2) Isaac – Gen16; 17; 21:1-21
- e. *Father* def. – he who creates; the progenitor | *Mother* def. – material of which anything is made
- f. Order: God the Father --> Man --> Woman – Gen1:26,27; 2:20-25; Cor11:3,7-12
- g. “*gendereth*” to be caused or produced after its own kind (i.e. bondmaid breeds into bondage)
- h. Paul contrasts:
 - i. Secondary Object: Mothers & Sons
 - ii. State: Bond or Free
 - iii. Power: Flesh or Promise
 - iv. Primary Object: Old Covenant & New Covenant – Heb8:8-10; Cf. Eph2:11,12
 - v. Engendered State: Bondage & Freedom
 - vi. Original Location: Mount Sinai & Heaven
 - vii. Israel’s Contemporary State: Bondage vs. Future Redemption – Rom11:1-11, 25-32
- i. “*Jerusalem which is above is free*” Paul references heaven & provision from God’s promised cov.
- j. “*which is the mother of us all*” God’s promises will be brought to bare – 2Cor1:20
- k. “*For it is written, Rejoice...*” reference to Israel’s for desolation and future increase – Isa54:1-17

4. 4:28-31

- a. “*Now we...as Isaac was*” Paul’s focus on our inherit. in Christ’s body – Gal3:28; Cf. Eph2:11-16
- b. “*born of the Spirit*” God gave the Spirit to NT Israel & the Body of Christ = liberty – 2Cor3:17
- c. Unbelieving Israel persecuted the Remnant of Israel (Ac12:1,2,11) & Paul’s ministry – Gal5:10-12
- d. “*Cast out the bondwoman and her son*” those that are of the flesh are not of promise, not heirs
- e. “*We are...children...of the free*” Paul’s point, as it always, is that we are not under the law



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Paul's Allegory – Galatians 4:21-31			
FATHER	 GOD		
Father	Abraham 		4:22
Mother	BOND woman Hagar 	FREE woman Sarah 	4:22
Son	FLESH Ishmael 	PROMISE Isaac 	4:23
Covenant	Old	New	4:24
Origin	Sinai	Heaven	4:25,26
Israel's State	Bondage	Future Redemption	4:25,26