

Home Group Notes 8

Galatians 4:21-5:6 Choose freedom

Introduction

Having taught that all Christians are children of Abraham from the moment they believed in Christ, Paul now makes a stronger point by comparing Abraham's sons.

1. Abraham had sons by two women. Are complex family situations a new phenomenon or old?
2. **Read Genesis 16:1-4, 18:10-14, 21:1-10.**
What are the differences between the births of these two sons?
3. **Read Gal.4:21-31** What does Paul say each mother represents (24-26)? Why?
4. Keller proposes 4 types of people in the world
 law-obeying and law-relying
 law disobeying and law-relying
 law-disobeying and not law-relying
 law-obeying and not law-relying
Can you give an example of each type?
Look back over your past and trace your spiritual life by these types. Have you changed type?
5. In v.24 Paul reminds us he is using the Old Testament story as an allegory. It is not a judgement on who were goodies and baddies in the story, but rather an illustration of someone seeking salvation by works and another relying on salvation by God's grace.

- Can you identify with Sarah in any way? Does her experience comfort/excite/confuse you?
6. How would you draw from this passage to answer the objection: 'the Christian message is exclusive'? Why do both non-religious and religious people need the gospel?
 7. Is it true today that 'Ishmaels' persecute 'Isaacs' (29)? Why would religious people persecute gospel people?
 8. **Read vv.1-5.**
From the passage, what has Christ done? What should be our response?
 9. Why would getting circumcised for them be the big step in falling away from grace?
 they stop relying on Christ
 they make ^{them} yourself a slave to the law
 they think ritual more important than faith and love
 10. Are there aspects of ritual that are so important to you that they stop you relying on Jesus' cross and his grace? Do you get upset about things which are not so important to God?
Are you in danger of reducing your Christian observance to keeping certain rules?

Prayer Points

Thank the Lord for the gospel and what he has done

Ask the Lord to deepen your love and passion for the gospel

Pray for our Christian witness as a church this remembrancetide

Pray for faith and obedience to rely on God alone

Pray for the needy people of South Sudan and DR Congo