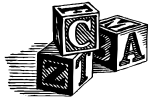


Acts 2:12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another,

"What Does This Mean?"

Response Questions for, "Standing Fast and Holding Firm in Grace,"
(Galatians 4:21-5:1).



Basic Ideas from Galatians 4:21-5:1.

The Holy Spirit is calling to us from this passage to consider three ideas.

1. The Holy Spirit desires for us to know how the plane of God is carried out flawlessly.
2. The Holy Spirit desires for us to choose His will over our own.
3. The Holy Spirit desires for us to feel the joy of resting in His wisdom and strength.



Basic Questions from Galatians 4:21-5:1.

1. To what does Paul appeal in verse 21?
2. To whom does Paul appeal in verses 22 and following?
3. What persecutes the children of promise?
4. What are we called on to do in verse 30?
5. What is Paul's exhortation to in 5:1?
6. Given your current understanding, what do you think is the main point that the Holy Spirit through Paul is making by comparing Abraham's two sons in Galatians 4:21-23? What are the two sons supposed to represent? As you answer this, remember the entire context of the book of Galatians. Paul is clearly giving an illustration of the same point he has been making all along.
7. Put yourself in Abraham's and Sarah's shoes and consider their "plan" to have a biological child through Hagar, Sarah's servant. Do you think this was a reasonable, sensible thing for them to do?
8. Galatians 4:24 states that "*the women represent two covenants.*" What are these "two covenants?"
9. What significant Biblical event happened at Mt. Sinai? For help on this, look up Exodus 19. Given that insight, what do you think Paul is implying by identifying one of the covenants with Mt. Sinai?
10. What are the distinctive characteristics of the covenant that was associated with Mt. Sinai?



The **Basic Application** from Galatians 4:21-5:1.

As we work through the book of Galatians we went from the autobiographical where Paul defended his apostleship, to the theological where he laid out the doctrine of justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. He is now moving

Continued on the other side...

into the applicational. You cannot separate what Paul has said with what he is about to say. The focus is always to be upward and toward Christ. What you do is simply the outworking of what you are. Nothing can change what you are in Him. Paul's desire is to align our practice in life with our position in Him.

1. Consider the following interpretation of the "two sons:"

Abraham's and Sarah's decision to use Hagar to make God's promise "happen" analogizes Christians' efforts to produce righteousness on their own ("by human effort," in the power of the "flesh"). While it seems "reasonable" and "sensible" to make rules and lists to discipline and push ourselves towards righteousness, this is not God's way. There are no "Twelve Step" programs to better spiritual living – despite the fact that this seems eminently "reasonable" and "sensible" to us. But God's way is not our way. God's way is by grace, through faith. It is the result of a "promise," implemented by His Spirit. It is the way of Isaac, not Ishmael. What do you think of this idea? Does it seem reasonable to you? As a believer you are a child of the promise and not according to the flesh (v. 28).

2. As a believer who embraces grace living, expect to be persecuted by the legalist (v. 29).
3. Seek to root out every trace of self-sufficiency from your Christian experience (v. 30). You cannot change the flesh nor can you compromise with it.
4. As a believer Christ wants you to be free in Him (5:1a).
5. As a believer keep standing firm in your freedom (5:1b).
6. As a believer do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery (5:1c).