

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: April 26, 2020

Spring Quarter: "Faith and Freedom" (Galatians)

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. In the first two chaps., Paul estab. the divine origin of his apostleship and message (his gospel). Judaizers were undermining both.
2. Then (in chaps. 3 & 4) he turned to the Galatians who were being urged to add works to faith, to keep the Mosaic Law in addition to placing faith in Christ as the grounds of acceptance before God. But, Paul argued, to **supplement** the work of Christ is to **supplant** it. There can only be one way of salvation; by faith in Christ alone. Chaps. 3, 4 are a vindication of the doct. of justification by faith.

#### VINDICATION OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE (3:1-4:7)

1. By the experience of the Galatians (3:1-5)
2. By the example of Abraham (3:6-9)
3. By the illogic of reliance on the Law (3:10-12)
4. By the work of Christ (3:13, 14)
5. By the perm. of the promise made to Abraham (3:15-18)
6. By the purpose of the Law (3:19-25)
7. By the believer's present position (3:26-4:7)

#### VINDICATION OF J. B. F. ALONE CONTINUED (4:8-31)

1. A Personal Appeal (4:8-20)
  - A. An appeal not to turn to LEGALISM.
  - B. An appeal to remember their RELATIONSHIP.
  - C. An appeal to consider Paul's ATTITUDE toward them.

## 2. A Biblical Illustration (4:21-31)

### A. The historical facts (4:21-23). Abraham had two sons!

- Contrast #1 ... One son, Isaac, was born of Sarah, "the free woman" (Gen. 21:2-5); the other, Ishmael, was born of Hagar, "the slave woman" (Gen. 16:1-16).

- Contrast #2 ... concerned the way the sons were conceived. Ishmael was born "in the ordinary way." Isaac ... "as the result of a promise."

### B. A figurative interpretation (4:24-27)

Paul compared the story of the birth of Ishmael & Isaac to the conflict between Judaism & Christianity.

#### 1) Ishmael and Isaac represent **two Covenants**

The Mosaic Covenant at Mt. Sinai & the Abrahamic Covenant

#### 2) Ishmael and Isaac represent **two Jerusalems**

Hagar stood for 1st-century city of Jerusalem; Sarah stood for the "Jerusalem above, the mother of all the children of grace.

### C. A personal application (4:28-31)

1) *Paul compared* the birth of Isaac to Christians (v. 28)

2) *Paul compared* Ishmael's persecution of Isaac to the false teachers' opposition to believers (v. 29)

3) *Paul compared* the action of Abraham to the obligation of the Galatians (vv. 30, 31)