

“The son of the slave wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God’s promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God’s own fulfillment of his promise. These two women serve as an illustration of God’s two covenants. The first woman, Hagar, represents Mount Sinai where people received the law that enslaved them.” Galatians 4:23-24 NLT

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The Apostle Paul reaches back to a very famous story to share truth with the churches in Galatia. He first interprets the story for his readers, then gives a modern day application for them to make a decision. Who would have the guts to take on a story about Abraham and Sarah and DARE cast a shadow on Father Abraham? Paul would, and does. Abraham and Sarah make the attempt to bring about a promise from God. And it results in a horrendous story of grief and deep-seated anger that still exists today. The son of a slave has no inheritance, especially when there is a son of a free, legitimate heir. OUCH. Paul uses this story to tell a harder truth - quit making illegitimate children under the guise of “fulfilling” God’s promise and claiming that it’s acceptable to God. Paul comes right out and says, bonding to the the law is placing yourself into slavery! The law was necessary and even instructional as a teacher, but it holds NO life, no future, no promise. The Jews knew all about the details of the law and had thousands of laws to explain them. They also had thousands of “loop holes” to get around the laws they did not enjoy making others try to keep. Laws are only as good as their ability to enforce them. And, everyone knows that every law has a loop-hole, this is why we have lawyers. Paul instructs the church, laws are for slaves and trying to keep them and their loop holes is DEATH.

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Dad,

I think it’s ironic that we read Paul’s harsh, corrective words and say Amen! Yet, it seems that every generational cycle of believers return to wrestle with the same damnable doctrine of the Judiazers. Christ plus _____ = salvation. Something in our brokenness wants to be free in the beginning, but add laws or additional steps to being a disciple. Clearly we do a poor job of letting you lead, guide, correct and clean up a person’s life. It’s so frustrating to see a brand new follower be full of life and then we take them through the gauntlet of the church ways to slowly drain that life from them through a thousand rules. I don’t want to live like that or lead like that! God help us to continually LEAVE Sinai and embrace Jerusalem!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root