

The Children of Promise

Galatians 4:8-31

March 24, 2019

Purpose of Galatians

Paul warns the Galatians not to tolerate any addition to the gospel of grace, particularly ritual circumcision, because a Gentile following Jesus does not need first to become a Jew.

I. Introduction (1:1-10)

A. The Apostolic Greeting (1:1-5)

- 1. Author (1:1-2a)**
- 2. Audience (1:2b)**
- 3. Greeting (1:3-5)**

B. Rebuke: the occasion of the letter (1:6-10)

Where we would normally expect to find an apostolic blessing, we hear instead an apostolic curse!

- 1. Paul's amazement at their departure (1:6-7)**
- 2. A curse on those who proclaim or receive a false gospel (1:8-9)**
- 3. Paul's model of not trying to please people (1:10)**

II. Using autobiography, Paul defends his apostleship and gospel (1:11-2:21)

A. Paul's gospel comes directly from God (1:11-24)

B. The Apostles endorse Paul's ministry and gospel (2:1-10)

1. Paul travels to Jerusalem (2:1-5)

2. The Pillars gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship (2:6-10)

C. Paul consistently was committed to the true gospel (2:11-21)

1. Paul rebuked Peter at Antioch which proves his apostolic authority (2:11-14)

2. Paul proclaims the biblical gospel: both Jews and Gentiles are justified by faith alone (2:15-20)

III. Using doctrine, Paul defends Justification is by faith alone (3:1-4:31)

- A. The Holy Spirit is received by faith alone (3:1-5)**
- B. Gentiles become sons of Abraham by faith alone (3:6-14)**
- C. If the Law does not save, then what is the Purpose of the Law? (3:15-29)**
 - 1. The Mosaic Law does not void the Abrahamic Promise (3:15-18)**
 - 2. The Law shows us our sinfulness... (3:19-22)**
 - 3. ...then leads us to Christ as the only source of righteousness (3:23-29)**
- D. Through the cross, Christ makes us Sons (4:1-7)**
 - 1. An heir does not receive an inheritance until he reaches the legal age (4:1-2)**
 - 2. God sent Christ to redeem guilty sinners (4:3-7)**

III. Using doctrine, Paul defends Justification is by faith alone (3:1-4:31)

E. Paul's concern for the Galatians (4:8-31)

1. Returning to the Jewish Law would be like returning to paganism (4:8-11)

- They would be returning to false gods (4:8)
- They would be returning to customs and traditions (4:9-10)
 - A Christian turning to the Mosaic Law is like a dog who returns to its own vomit (2 Peter 2:22)
 - A Christian returning to the Mosaic Law is like the Hebrews who wanted to go back to Egypt (Exodus 14:10-12)
- It would be as if they had never even heard the gospel from Paul (4:11)
 - Living under the Law would forfeit the freedom they have in the gospel.

III. Using doctrine, Paul defends Justification is by faith alone (3:1-4:31)

E. Paul's concern for the Galatians (4:8-31)

- 1. Returning to the Jewish Law would be like returning to paganism (4:8-11)**
- 2. Paul makes a personal appeal to the Galatians to abandon the Law and cling to the gospel (4:12-20)**

- **Paul pleads for the Galatians to imitate him (4:12-16)**

- **In the past, the Galatians warmly welcomed Paul when he was ill (4:12b-15)**
 - **In the present, the Galatians are displeased when Paul told the truth (4:16)**

How could the Galatians think of Paul as an enemy, after caring for him before?

- **The Galatians' real enemy, the Judaizers, want to exclude you from the grace of God (4:17-18)**

- **Paul is anguished and perplexed about the Galatians (4:19-20)**

- **Paul ministered to bring the Galatians to maturity**

III. Using doctrine, Paul defends Justification is by faith alone (3:1-4:31)

E. Paul's concern for the Galatians (4:8-31)

- 1. Returning to the Jewish Law would be like returning to paganism (4:8-11)**
- 2. Paul makes a personal appeal to the Galatians to abandon the Law and cling to the gospel (4:12-20)**
- 3. Paul makes a personal appeal using an analogy: the true sons of Abraham are children of the promise, not the law (4:21-31)**
 - **To submit to the Law is to become a slave like Hagar (4:21-27)**
 - Ishmael's birth was motivated by doubt
 - Isaac's birth was motivated by faith
 - The Law brings slavery
 - **God calls us to enjoy freedom like Sarah (4:28-31)**
 - The promise brings freedom

Contrasts in Paul's analogy

slave woman	free woman
Ishmael	Isaac
according to flesh	through promise
Hagar	Sarah
slavery	freedom
present Jerusalem	Jerusalem above
persecuting	persecuted

**Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone,
in Christ alone.**

**Adding any religious/ceremonial work results in a
message that does not save.**