

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

Date: 04/19/26

Sermon: Ted Rastatter/Self Reliance or Surrender?

Text: Galatians 4:21-31

Questions: Jerry Shiver

In this week's message, Pastor Ted digs into Paul's continued confrontation with the Galatian church's abandonment of a gospel of salvation only through Jesus. Instead, they have embraced a gospel of Jesus plus works by men, under the Mosaic Law. Paul uses the Old Testament story from Genesis 16 where Abram (Abraham), Sarai (Sarah) and Hagar took matters into their own hands instead of trusting God's promise to give Abram an heir. Paul uses this story as an illustration where the actions of Abram, Sarai, and Hagar result in the births of Ishmael and Issac. Paul points out that this resulted in two different covenants by God. One with salvation based according to the flesh (works and the Law), the other based on the promise of God (grace through Jesus). Supporting Scriptures: Gen 16: 1-12, 17:19-21, 21:8-13.

Main Point: We have a choice. Will we choose self-reliance, or total dependance on Christ for our salvation?

Discussion Questions:

1. Read v21-24. Discuss Paul's use of this allegory to the Galatian church. Why is it important to his argument against the Judaizers (false teachers)? Do you think the Galatians understood and accept it? Both covenants were promised by God, how are they different according to Paul (where do they place their faith)?
2. Read v25-27. How does Paul compare present Jerusalem with Jerusalem above? What denotes slave versus free? How does Paul intend this for the Galatian church, for us now?
3. Why would Paul declare these brethren "children of promise" in v28 (Rom 9:7-8)? How did the Jew's typically refer to themselves (Jn 8:39)? Read Gen 21:9-10 and compare with v29-30. What is Paul's challenge in these verses, to the Galatians and to us?
4. In the story about Abraham, Sarah and Hagar and the situation of the Galatian church, we see people taking matters into their own hands, taking God's promises and trying to figure them out on their own, being self-reliant or trying to manage God. In Gen 22 we read of God's test of Abraham to sacrifice his son Isacc. Take a moment to discuss the key parts of the event, God's directions, Abraham's reaction and what God's action foreshadowed (2 Cor 5:21)? How has Abraham's heart changed from his earlier actions concerning Sarah, Hagar and his heir?
5. In v31, Paul's declaration ultimately demands something of the Galatians and us. Take a moment to consider two application questions Ted gave us from this passage. Will you trust Jesus today, or will you try to manage life on your own? Will you trust Jesus by committing your whole life in the decisions that you make to the authority of God's Word?