

- I) V17 INTRO: They zealously court you, **but for no good**; yes, they want to exclude Paul is writing concerning false Christians who have been pursuing the church
- II) They have been preaching a mixture of Jewish law and Christian grace
They were insisting that the Gentile men be circumcised
Ac 15:1 Certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, Unless you are circumcised according to **the custom of Moses**, you cannot be saved
Ac 15:5 Some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying it is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to **keep the law of Moses**
- III) By combining **the law** with **grace**, they polluted the doctrine of grace
Paul said they were **perverting** (corrupting; distorting) the gospel (1:7)
- IV) Instead of tolerating what they taught, Paul exposed it as error
He also strongly condemned the gospel as well as the messengers
Gal 1:8 Even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed
- V) The false teachers have been perverting the gospel of grace
As an apostle and having spiritual authority, Paul brought correction to the error
HOW COULD HE DO THIS
- VI) He had been entrusted with the gospel, and he had authority to proclaim it
1 Ti 2:7 For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher **of the Gentiles in** faith and truth
- VII) It was the gospel that he had received, and he instructed others to proclaim it
- VIII) An example of this is in the case of Pastor Timothy
2 Ti 1:13-14 Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching **you have heard from me**, with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit Who dwells in us
- IX) The false teachers were claiming greater authority, and preaching error
They added law to grace and by doing so, undermined the power of grace
IN GALATIANS
- X) Paul has been insisting that **our salvation** rests entirely on the grace of God
It is the result of faith in what Jesus did for us and cannot be earned

- I) Salvation is a divine gift, something sinful man cannot gain for himself
We can't earn it, buy it, or inherit it from our parents or grandparents
- II) **It is a gift**, and by faith we receive it
Titus 3:5 He saved us —**not by works of righteousness** that we had done, but according to His mercy (compassion)—through the **washing** (cleansing) **of regeneration** and renewal (change of heart) by the Holy Spirit.
- III) They had heard the gospel of grace, which freed them from works righteousness
It was not by holding to the law but by receiving the Spirit, through faith
So Paul asked (3:3) Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?
AT THIS POINT: REVIEW
- IV) Paul begins to expose the tactics of these false teachers
V17 They zealously (desire earnestly, strive after) court you
As seducers, they aggressively pursue you
APPLICATION
- V) Most cults appear to truly care about you and constantly pursue you
They call or message you to see how you are doing
They invite themselves over to your house or invite you to their meetings
- VI) This pursuit has a way of convincing you to think that **they really care for you**
- VII) V17 Yes **but for not good**; yes they **want to exclude you**
Once they have you, the sincere concern they once seemed to have changes
They now begin to control you and exercise dominion over your life
- VIII) This is the mark of a false teacher
Paul wasn't trying to bully them, he was encouraging them to be free in Jesus
2 Co 1:24 Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith, **you stand**
CULTS
- IX) In our day some will restrict you to reading only their material
JW's don't want their followers to just read the bible or other materials
They don't like you speaking to Christians without them to answer for you
- X) Other groups warn you against believers and tell you that you must **stay with them**

I) **IS THIS TRUE?**

We need to remember: God has established leadership in the church

This is exercised by pastor/teachers ordained by the Lord--1 Ti 3, Titus 1

II) They do exercise spiritual influence and authority in the church

This influence is based specifically on the authority of Scripture

Heb 13:17 **Obey** those who rule over you and be submissive *for* they watch out for your souls as those who **must give account**. Let them do so with joy and not with grief for that would be unprofitable for you

III) False teachers insincerely pursue converts

They are look to gain followers; they want to increase membership, or money

Titus 1:10-11 There are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, **especially those of the circumcision group**. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach --and that for the sake of dishonest gain.

IV) The fruit of following them is drawing you away from God's grace

You ultimately are excluded (shut out) from the grace of God

V) V18 It is good to be zealous in **a good thing** always, and not only when I am

On the other hand, it is good to zealously seek to honor God

VI) This is the way he sought them out and this is how they ought to view his example

VII) V19 My little children for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you

My precious children, those I dearly love, I agonize for your maturity in the Lord

VIII) V20 I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone for *I have*

I wish I could be there with you: I am so concerned for you

IX) I need to see first-hand what has happened among you

Like a doctor making a diagnosis, I need to check the progress of error and conviction among you, which I cannot fully know without being among you

BEGIN STUDY

X) V21 Tell me **you who desire** to be under the law, do you not hear the Law?

Paul once again begins contrasting the grace of God with the Law of Moses

- I) Paul reminds them of an OT story: Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar
This demonstrates to them that God's plan of redemption **has always been grace**
- II) V22 **It is written** that Abraham had two sons: The one by a bondwoman, the other
Paul begins his explanation by pointing to scripture
BRIEFLY
- III) The life of Abraham (Abram) is primarily covered in Gen 12-25
This gives us his call, his covenant with God and the birth of his sons
- IV) Abraham lived around 2000 years BC, and Moses around 1400 BC
The law came hundreds of years after God established His work with Abraham
Paul already spoke of this in Gal 3:17
- V) Abraham is recognized as the father of the Jews and **Judaism**
Gen 12:1-3 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. **I will make you a great nation;** I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
- VI) Paul is once again emphasizing salvation by **grace** through **faith**
This is how **Abraham was saved**, something he has been clearly saying
Ro 4:3 What does the scripture say? Abraham **believed God**, and it was accounted to him for righteousness
- VII) Once again Paul demonstrates that keeping the law doesn't justify you
- VIII) V22 **It is written** that Abraham had two sons
In the biblical record, only Isaac and Ishmael are prominently mentioned
These two sons of Abraham had different mothers
FIRST
- IX) Abraham's first son was named **Ishmael** (Literally, God will hear)
Ishmael was the son of Sarai's maidservant Hagar, an Egyptian slave
She is especially mentioned in Gen. 16:1-4; 15-16
SECOND
- X) He later went on to have a second son, **Isaac** (Laughter) Gen 17:1-8, 15-21
I NEED TO DEVELOP THIS

- I) V23 He who was of the bondwoman was born **according to the flesh** and he of the Paul contrasts the way the children **were conceived**
ON ONE HAND
- II) Paul makes it clear, Ishmael's conception was according to a **work of the flesh**
WHAT LED TO HIS CONCEPTION
- III) Interestingly, it grew out of the fact that Abram had been **exceedingly blessed**
His blessings created a concern: who would inherit his estate?
- IV) He was concerned he would leave his belongings to his chief servant
Gen 15:1-4 The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your very great reward.** " But Abram said, "O LORD, what can you give me since **I remain childless** and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "**You have given me no children** so a servant in my household will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, **but a son** coming **from your own body** will be your heir."
- V) This resulted in his having a child through Sarai's maidservant, Hagar
This was a fleshly attempt to fulfill God's promise to him, on his own
- VI) Part of the way it occurred was through the insistence of Sarai, Abram's wife
Gen 16:1-4 Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became **despised** in her eyes (she disrespected her and treated her with contempt)
- VII) She got what she wanted and then became angry over it
Gen 16:5 Sarai said to Abram, "**My wrong be upon you!** I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The LORD judge between you and me."
- VIII) This gives us insight into Sarai: she was obviously very strong and hot tempered
She is the one who insisted that he take Hagar as a second wife
Now, she blames him for what she encouraged him to do

- I) Gen 16:6 Abram said to Sarai, “Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please.” And when **Sarai dealt harshly** with her, she fled from her presence.
- II) She may be Abram’s concubine, but she is also Sarai’s handmaid
Abram told her to deal with it as she pleased
- III) Sarai **mistreated** and **humbled** her, reducing her to the rank of an ordinary servant
Hagar had thought she could disrespect her, and found out that she couldn’t
- IV) This provoked Hagar to run away, heading to her homeland, Egypt
- V) She ended up near a spring in the desert, S of Jerusalem, on the way to Egypt
It was there that the **Angel of the Lord** found her, by a spring of water
He told her to return to Sarai and to submit herself under her hand
- VI) He went on to say
Gen 16:10-12 I will give you more descendants than you can count.” And the angel also said, “You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means ‘God hears’), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress. This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives.”
- VII) Ishmael is regarded as the **father of the Arab nations**
Gen 16:16 Abram was 86 years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram
- VIII) V23 Ishmael was born **according to the flesh**
His birth was the result of fleshly desire accomplished by fleshly means
IT’S BEEN SAID
- IX) Be careful what you ask for: you just might get it
- X) This reminds me of what Paul had already said
Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?
ON THE OTHER HAND
- XI) V23 Isaac was the child **that God had promised**
The Spirit miraculously enabled Sarah to conceive Abraham's child Isaac

- I) Gen 17 records how the Lord appeared to Abram and spoke to him
Gen 17:2 I will make My covenant between Me and you and **will multiply you** exceedingly
Abram was **99 years old** when this happened
- II) God changed his name to **Abraham**, father of many nations
He said He would establish His covenant between them for all future generations
Gen 17:8 I give to you and your **descendants after you the land** in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an **everlasting possession**; and I will be their God
- III) God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah
He told Abraham that she would be blessed, and would have a son
She would be a mother of nations, kings and peoples would be from her
- IV) Abraham could not grasp what God was saying: how could this be?
Gen 17:18 Abraham said to God Oh **that Ishmael might live before You**
GOD RESPONDED
- V) Gen 17:19 God said: No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant **with him** for and everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him
- VI) Gen 21:5 Abraham was **a hundred years old**, when his son Isaac was born to him
Both Abraham and Sarah were overwhelmed by the promise of God
Gen 18:14 Is anything too difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, in about a year, and Sarah will have s son
- VII) This reminds me of an older couple who were married here
The application asks if they have plans to have children
- VIII) Heb 11:11-12 Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore, from one man, **and him as good as dead**, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.
PAUL MAKES HIS POINT
- IX) V24-25 Which things are symbolic for these are the **two covenants**
Hagar represents Mt Sinai, where Moses got the Law, which birthed bondage

Gal 3:10-12

- I) **Symbolically**, Ishmael represents religious self-effort
He represents the covenant of the law, which produced works
Ishmael represents **the way of the flesh**, or man's way of salvation: work
- II) **Isaac** symbolizes the way of God, the way of promise
He represents God's grace which makes the way for us to be pleasing to God
- III) The point of this contrast is to exalt the grace of God in salvation
Legalists draw people into a system that they rely on for salvation
- IV) If they eat certain foods, and resist eating other kinds of food
If they worship on certain days, wear certain kinds of clothes, or knock on doors
- V) Paul is saying it is the grace of God that makes it possible for you to be saved
It is not the result of your serious, sincere, and concerted efforts to be saved
Lu 18:27
- VI) V26 The **Jerusalem above** is free which is the mother of us all
Jerusalem above is heaven: Our home, which we enter in by faith, through grace
Heb 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion, *to the heavenly Jerusalem*, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,
Phil. 3:20 Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ
- VII) V27 For it is written Rejoice O barren you who do not bear! Break forth and shout y
Is 54:1 It originally applied to Jewish exiles in Babylon
Paul applies it to Sarah: Rejoice, because God has made good on His promise!
He always does
PAUL NOW MAKES HIS POINT
- VIII) V28 Now we brethren as Isaac was, are children of promise
Believers are *conceived* and the receive God's promise by faith in Christ
POINT
- IX) We owe our spiritual re-birth to God's grace: Not our self-efforts

Ro 9:8-9 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.

I) V29 As he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was Ishmael persecuted Isaac:

Gen. 21:8-10 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that *the son* whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was *mocking*, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

II) This persecution continues to this day
There is a historic rise in antisemitism as well as invasion of the US

III) V30 What does the scripture say? Cast out the bondwoman and her son
The son of the bondwoman shall not be heir: Cast them out

SIMPLE POINT

IV) You cannot enter by the works of the Law of Moses

V) V31 So then brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but the free
We are spiritual descendants of Abraham, through Isaac

Ro 2:28-29 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

VI) As Abraham believed and was regarded as righteous, so are we
Gal 3:6 Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness