

ABRAHAM: Growing Strong in Faith

God's Good vs. God's Best

Genesis 21:1-21/Galatians 4:21-31

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Dr. Paul White, Senior Pastor

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1)

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE:

vv. 1-7 Isaac's birth

And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." (v. 6)

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. (Hebrews 10:36)

vv. 8-14 Ishmael's expulsion

Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac. (v. 10)

But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." (Galatians 4:29-30)

vv. 15-21 God's kindness

Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation. (v. 18)

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)

GOD'S BEST IS FOR YOU TO LIVE FREE

- **Two ways to live.**

Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar...Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. (Galatians 4:24, 28)

- **God's purpose is to _____ you and make us His sons (and daughters).**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:4-7)

- **You are set free to live free of _____ and condemnation.**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT LIVING FREE

1. Living free begins with a _____ birth.

For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. (Galatians 4:22-23)

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" ...Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:3, 5-6)

2. Living free includes dealing with _____.

But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. (Galatians 4:29)

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:5-8)

3. Living free means we reject an _____ to the Law.

But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (Galatians 4:30-31)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:22-24)

NEXT WEEK: ABRAHAM – GROWING STRONG: *Making Peace with Your Enemies* (Genesis 21:22-34)

Legend:

God's purpose is to redeem you and make us His sons (and daughters).

You are set free to live free of fear and condemnation.

1. Living free begins with a supernatural birth.
2. Living free includes dealing with opposition.
3. Living free means we reject an obligation to the Law.

Faithbridge Church

13720 McCormick Road * Jacksonville, FL 32225

904-220-2727 * www.wearefaithbridge.com