

# Galatians 4:12-31 – 31 July 2022

## “Confirming Justification By Faith”

### Introduction

\*Theme of Book is “Justification by Faith”: Self-merit can never justify man, who is sinful by nature, in the presence of God, who is holy by nature

### \*Galatians Outlined

\*Chap 1-2 – **Jockeying** for justification by faith

\*Chap 3-4 – **Basis** of justification by faith

\*Chap 5-6 – **Fallout** from justification by faith

\*Chap 3:1-20 showed the method of coming back into relation w/ God has ALWAYS been by faith in God

\*Chap 3:21-4:11 showed how Christ is the fulfillment of the Law bringing us into the family as sons not servants

\*Now rest of Chap 4 – Paul takes us to deeper layer of truth revealing the consistency & depth of God’s Word

**\*Today let’s see 2 principles of confirmation that we’re justified by faith**

# **1<sup>st</sup> principle of confirmation is that it's based in the Scriptures, not just on passion or feelings (Vs 12-20)**

Read Vs 12

1. “Let’s be likeminded, you’ve always been good to me”
2. Paul is appealing to the already establish relationship that they have
3. “You’ve not injured me” – Paul wasn’t speaking from being personally offended by them

Read Vs 13-14

1. When Paul preached to them, he was weak in body & presence but they hadn’t despised him for it, indeed they received him very well
2. Paul’s asking them to follow his teaching and example of consistency, not b/c he’s perfect

Read Vs 15

1. They previously demonstrated such joy for Paul that they would’ve given their eyes for him

- a. Reasonable that his infirmity was eye trouble or nerve damage
2. He's asking, 'where is this joy over me & my message now?'
3. Why have they lost their joy?
  - a. Analogy – A boy is sent down the road in the rain to get a wrench for his father
    - i. They're so concerned w/ making rules for how to get to the other house that they get mad at their circumstances & even the joy of others they see
    - ii. When all the while they should be focus on the destination
    - iii. He was sent to get the wrench so his dad could fix his bike & ride together tomorrow in the sun!
  - b. Focus on the destination, not the process
    - i. Jesus has already provided all the power we need for the process, don't over complicate it

## Read Vs 16-17

1. There are those that are passionate about what they believe it, but they're passionately wrong
  - a. Read Rom 10:2
2. They want you to be separated from the church so that they can have the influence over you more

## Read Vs 18

1. Zeal & passion are always good to have, whether Paul is with them or not
2. It's not a question of zeal, it's one of truth

## Read Vs 19-20

1. As if the birthing process is lasting longer than it should
2. Paul is waiting for Christ's life to be seen living thru them as proof that they have been born again
3. He wants to be with them, in person would aid this process along quicker

## **2<sup>nd</sup> principle of confirmation is that it's still there at deeper levels of Scripture (Vs 21-31)**

Read Vs 21

1. What exactly do people that are trying to earn their way to eternal life need to hear? The law!

Read Vs 22-23

1. Ismael was born by self-effort not waiting for the promise of God – frustration, no patience
  - a. Gen 16:2 – ‘the Lord hath restrained me from bearing’ – couldn’t wait for God’s timing
  - b. Gen 16:3 – Sarai gave Hagar to Abram – fleshly way may look appealing
  - c. Gen 16:4-5 – Sarai was despised in Hagar’s eyes once Hagar ‘had a good thing going’
    - i. Law-keepers get prideful about self-works
2. Isaac was born by God’s will in God’s timing, when it could seemingly happen no earthly way
  - a. Gen 16:6 – Sarai overcame Hagar getting rid of her influence
  - b. Gen 16-7-9 – Hagar is told to submit to Sarai
    - i. Law has been overcome & submits to Jesus

## Read 24-26

1. Hagar pictures Sinai which pictures bondage
2. Sarai pictures Jerusalem which pictures freedom
3. Although earthly Jerusalem is in bondage a little longer, real Jerusalem is in heaven & is always free
  - a. Hebrews 12 compares the two covenants
    - i. Read Heb 12:18-21 – speaking of Sinai
    - ii. Read Heb 12:22-25 – Speaking of Jerusalem
  - b. Read Heb 11:10 – Abe looked for this city
4. ‘The mother of us all’ in the sense that we’re “born” of Jerusalem or Sarai or the Spirit
  - a. Read Rev 3:12 – We’ll find our home there

## Read Vs 27

1. Allegory of being born of the Spirit & not after the flesh was prophesied in Isa 54:2 (John 3:5-7)
2. Man’s system vs God’s love
  - a. Remember, man’s religious systems are as a job that you’re earning your wages
  - b. Truly knowing God is as one being ‘born’ into the family & finding our new home

## Read Vs 28-29

1. Continuing the allegory, just as the prideful children of the flesh have always persecuted the children of promise, so they still are today
2. The working Marthas will always find a reason to get mad at the worshipping Marys
  - a. Be ready to answer them and exclude them

## Read Vs 30-31

1. The law and the Spirit don't work together
2. Once the child of promise comes, law is done
3. Law's bondage is done and has no hold on us
  - a. Don't be entangled again with those that would put you under bondage again

## Conclusion

So, how much confidence do you have in God to save you?

Let it bring you great joy to know that we base our hope of heaven...

- 1. Not on ourselves or our feelings or unreasonable guesses at the truth**
  - a. we base our hope on the unchanging mind of God found in His Word**
- 2. This principle of being justified by belief in God's saving actions are not just seen in the surface text of the Old & New testaments, it's also seen at much deeper layers**

The Bible is an integrated message system with each piece fitting into & complementing the others.

As if it comes from the mind of the Almighty that already has the beginning & the end sorted out...b/c He does!!