

# Galatians 4:8-11, 21-31

- Review-v7, All of the Believer's privileges come "through Christ."
- through - as a result of, because of. We have nothing to offer.

# Service to idols v8

- Service - lit. slavery, from GK douleuo, to be enslaved.
- Idols are wicked masters, demanding - Self mutilation, immorality, sacrifice of children, and immodesty.
- Believers are no longer slaves to false Gods / religion, but free Sons of the true God.

- V9 “weak and beggarly” - Useless, feeble actions, with no potential or ability to give spiritual help or encouragement.
- Elements - stoicheions, signifies teaching by rules and regulations, has the idea of orderly rows and ranks. Everything lined up and laid out.
- V9-10  
“If your Christianity is checking the box in order to make you feel good about your self before God-your Christianity is no different than any other religion in the world.”  
~*D. Platt*
- Paul’s point is that simply going through the motions is NO different than paganism!

# Allegory, v21-31

- Definition - a true or fictional account that shows a truth.
- “allegory draws its strength from comparison”  
~*The Bible Explorers Guide, John Phillips*

# Characters

- Hagar, Ishmael, Mt. Sinai - always picture slavery and bondage.
- Sarah, child of promise (Isaac), Jerusalem - always picture freedom and fellowship.
- Flesh (law) - Abraham and Sarah's attempt (work) to fulfill the promise through the flesh using Hagar.
- Promise - God working in spite of impossible physical circumstances to fulfill His promise.
- Point - Law and promise are not intended to co-exist (V30).

**“We have a relationship with God. We can make Christianity just like every other religion, and check off the boxes through routine and ritual or we can step into the intimate presence of God. We should be a people who walk with and know our God intimately. We should serve God whole heartedly, not because we are trying to make ourselves righteous, but because we have been made righteous by God’s grace. We should walk with Him as sons who know, love, and glorify Him.”**

*-D. Platt*