

## Galatians

Salvation by grace! Justification by faith! Sanctification by faith!

### The Appeal To Stay Away From Legalism

- Because legalism is bondage – 4:8-11
- Because of their personal relationship – 4:12-20
- Illustrated in Hagar and Sarah – 4:21-31

### Allegorical contrast between Promise & Law

**Verse 21** – “...do you not listen to the law?” From Genesis, part of the Torah, Paul contrasts the Sarah-Isaac and Hagar-Ishmael relationships. He seeks to prove the Judaizers wrong from their own source document.

### Verse 22-23 Two contrasts:

Son of the bondwoman - Son of the free woman  
 Born of the flesh - Born of the promise  
 Abraham and Sarah devised a fleshly scheme. However, scheming and true Biblical faith are mutually exclusive. If we trust God and His promises, we will not scheme!

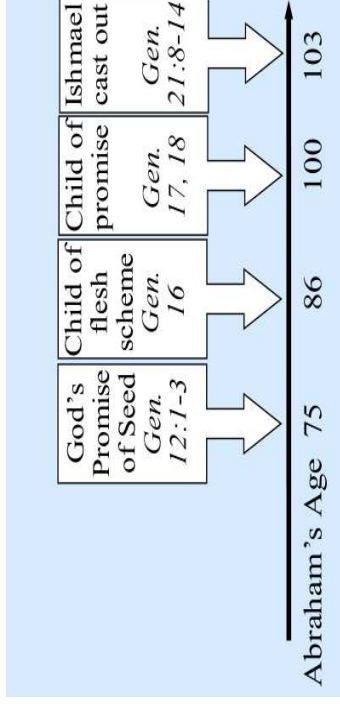
### Verse 24 “This is allegorically speaking...”

Paul is not denying the historicity of the persons and events or advancing an allegorical method of interpretation. He is allegorizing the historical facts because they illustrate his point about the distinctives of law versus grace.

### Principle:

Law is not only incapable of adding anything to what grace provides, it is also counter-productive.

A believer turning to law for spirituality is like a banker turning to a beggar for financial support!



THE ALLEGORIZED ITEMS, v. 24-31	
Hagar-Ishmael	Sarah-Isaac
a. Represents the Sinaitic Covenant that produces bondage, v. 24	a. Represents the Grace-Promise Covenant that produces liberty, v. 28, 31
LAW VERSUS GRACE-PROMISE	
b. Represents Mount Sinai which corresponds to earthly Jerusalem and its inhabitants (the Jews) who are under bondage to the Sinaitic Law, v. 25	b. Represents the heavenly Jerusalem (the ideal) which produces children that are free from fleshly and cosmic controls, v. 26, 31
EARTHLY VERSUS HEAVENLY	
c. Represents production of the flesh with its schemes and struggles relative to what is right, v. 23, 29	c. Represents production of the Spirit, v. 23, 29. Note especially v. 29: Ishmael “born after (κατὰ - in accord with) the flesh” and Isaac “born after (κατὰ) the Spirit” (the Holy Spirit)!
- FLESH VERSUS SPIRIT - WORKS VERSUS FAITH	

(Chart from Ron Merryman, *Galatians*)

### Verses 28-30 – Three Applications:

1. Believers are born supernaturally and are part of God’s promise.
2. Legalists always persecute those living in liberty.
3. Christians should exclude legalists from their midst.

**POINT:** Those in accord with the flesh will antagonize those in accord with the Spirit.

Legalism gives vent to the flesh!

Legalism gives the flesh a chance to look good!

**CONCLUSION:** There is only one way to be children of God – through *the* free woman, that is through the faith-principle!