GALATIANS
The Path To Freedom
Galatians 4:21-5:6
Week 8  November 15, 2026
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The Galatians are having a tough time.
They are being pulled in two different directions.

Paul has been trying to keep them from abandoning the gospel of grace and returning to the legalistic system practiced by Jews for hundreds of years.

**A STORY OF BOND OR FREE**

*Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written,*

*"Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;*
*break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!*
*For the children of the desolate one will be more*
*than those of the one who has a husband."*

*28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 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. 30 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." 31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.*
Galatians 4:21-31  ESV

To live under the Law is to tell God you will do it your way.

The Judaizers are referring to Abraham as a physical relative.
Paul is referring to Abraham as our spiritual father.

Both Ishmael and Isaac were born of Abraham's seed.  One according to the flesh and one according to the promise.
The point is God choose a barren woman to birth a nation.

Persecution often comes from within from those who follow a legalistic path.

**TRUE FREEDOM**

*It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.*
Galatians 5:1  NAS

With our freedom granted and paid for, we are free to choose to worship God not because we have to but because we choose to.

The Jews take the yoke of the Law upon themselves.

**THE CHOICE**

*Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. 3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. 4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.*
Galatians 5:2-4  ESV

If you try to live any part of the Law then Jesus cannot help you.

Paul is condemning the theology that makes works necessary for salvation.

**FAITH, HOPE, LOVE**

*For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.*
Galatians 5:5-6  ESV

We, through the Spirit, by **faith** working through **love** have our **hope** in the gospel of grace.

To believe is not just intellectual ascent.  It is to place one's personal confidence in Christ who loves us and gave Himself for us.