



Galatians 4:21-30

Tuesday, July 14th, 2020

²¹ Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. ²³ His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

Paul here is giving his answer to those Jews who were trying to place non-Jewish believers under the bond of the law. Through the Old Testament example of Abraham's two sons Paul points out how their goal was false.

God Himself promised Abraham a son. As time went on and God didn't seem to be fulfilling His promise, Abraham's wife pushed him to have a child with her maid. This was the son of the slave woman. But later, God fulfilled His promise and the second son was born from Abraham's wife. So, as we see here, the first son was the result of human effort and human plans to fulfill God's own promise; the second son on the other hand is the fulfillment of trusting God at His word.

The Galatian church received the Gospel from Paul, and through the Gospel the fulfillment of the law through Jesus. But now they wanted to place themselves again under the law!? Abraham hadn't seen the fulfillment of God's promise yet and so took the situation into his own hands. The Galatians on the other hand already seen and experienced the fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus and yet returned to trying to achieve righteousness through their own efforts. They are children of the promise (verse 29), but don't live like it; they are free through Jesus, but instead choose to be imprisoned under the law!

Very few of us would have had the desire to follow the law; but what could it represent in our own lives? For the Jews, the law was simply a big part of their old life, but for the Galatians it presented the temptation to become justified through their works. I think we all must remind ourselves time and time again that we are not justified through our works. And we need to realize that following this temptation not only brings us away from God, it also leads to us ignoring or even denying the profound sacrifice Jesus made for us on the Cross to give us His righteousness! The more we recognize just how much we need righteousness and that Jesus is the only one who can give it to us, the more we will praise Him!

Prayer: *Thank You, Jesus, that we have received righteousness through Your sacrifice on the Cross and that we are now free! Jesus, help us to understand and see that we can only find righteousness in You; help us to trust You at Your word. Thank You that You are always faithful. Amen.*

-Maurice Schärer-

