

Study Guide for January 27th, 2002. Galatians 4:21-31. Slave or Free?

1. After the Civil War, there were many African-Americans who remained **enslaved** even though they were technically **free**. Why do you think this was so? Why do Christians remain **enslaved** today?
2. Background: To benefit fully from this passage, it is important to know the history that forms the basis for Paul's allegory. Read the following passages, then briefly summarize the content.
 - A. Gen. 16:1-16: B/c Ab & Sarai cannot have children, Ab fathers a child through Hagar, Sarai's slave. During the pregnancy, Hagar mocks Sarai, is mistreated and runs away. Hagar returns after an encounter with the angel of the Lord who instructs her to name the boy Ishmael.
 - B. Gen. 18:9-15:
 - C. Gen. 21:1-7:
 - D. Gen. 21:8-21:
3. The Comparison: Paul is really making a grand comparison between Judaism and Christianity. Fill in the blanks on the following chart to see the points of comparison Paul is making clear.

	<u>JUDAISM</u>		<u>CHRISTIANITY</u>	
A. Mother / status:	/	!	/	
B. Son / type of conception:	/	!	/	
C. Covenant / mountain:	/	!	/	(Heb. 12:18-24)
D. City which represents:		!		
E. Status of residents:		!		

Use of Allegory: By using the Abraham story in an allegory, Paul adopts a method of argument used by the legalists. Abraham was their model of one who lived by the law, (because he was circumcised) but now Paul points to him as the primary example of living by grace according to God's promise.

4. The Application:
 - A. Paul has exposed the motive of many of the Galatians. Vs. 21 identifies them as, "You who want to be _____ the _____. What do you think this means?"
 - B. In reality, the brothers (among the Galatians) are (vs. 28) like _____, children of the _____.
 - C. Paul reminds them (and us) that (vs. 29) there will be _____ toward those born by the power of the Spirit. Where should believers expect this to come from today?
 - D. Paul instructs the Galatians (vs. 30) to "_____ of the slave woman and her son." What do you think this means for the Galatians? _____ What would it mean for us today?
 - E. Since we are free in Christ, what should we do to protect our spiritual liberty?