

PREACHING CURRICULUM



SERMON TITLE: Children of Promise

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:21-31

So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

Read Galatians 4:21-31. Why does Paul bring up the subject of Abraham's two sons in this passage? What basic point is he making?

In Paul's allegorical line of reasoning, what does Hagar and her son represent? Furthermore, in this analogy, what does the free woman (Sarah) and her son Isaac symbolize? How would you explain Paul's analogy to someone who wasn't familiar with the book of Galatians or the Bible in general?

What contrasts and comparisons does Paul draw between Hagar/Ishmael and Sarah/Isaac? How are they different? What blessings and benefits do the freeborn children of Sarah enjoy which the enslaved children of Hagar do not?

How was this analogy intended to help the Galatian Christians who were in danger of abandoning the true gospel of Christ in favour of going back "under the law"? How does it help us avoid the same danger?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

What does it mean to be free? How would you explain your understanding of the concept of freedom to someone else? How does our culture's view of freedom compare and contrast with the biblical view?

In what ways might you be tempted to drift away from relying on Christ alone for our justification? How might you be tempted to trust in your own good deeds to save you, at least a little bit?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

What does it mean for us that we too are "children of promise", just like Isaac (verse 28)? What promises and blessings can we eagerly anticipate receiving in the future? How does this truth affect the way we live our lives?

On a practical level, what might it look like for us to live in the freedom that Christ gives to us? In other words, what does "Christian freedom" look like when it is lived out on a day-to-day basis?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

What might it look like for you to live as a "child of promise" this week? How might this truth empower you for love and service?