

We Don't Work for Our Salvation,
We Work Because of Our Salvation!
Galatians 4:21-31

Introduction

1. Often wonder – does the world look at the church and think they are working to please God.
 - A. Then they think.
 - B. Well, I can work without the church a please God.
 - C. I don't have to spend my time going to church to be acceptable to God.
 - D. If I do enough good, then God will have to accept me.
2. In these passages Paul is painting this picture for his listeners.
 - A. Salvation is only by grace not by work.
3. Paul uses this O.T. story to illustrate his point.
 - A. He calls it an allegory.

What is an allegory?

1. A way of expressing one thing under the image of another.
 - A. It is a picture of a word to help you see the truth of a situation.
2. In these 10 verses Paul gives us a Biblical Illustration to defend the truth that.
 - A. ***Salvation is freedom from the bondage of the law.***
 - B. ***Salvation is by grace not by work.***
 - C. ***Salvation is a gift from God, not earned by effort.***
3. ***Paul explains this in 3 ways***
 - A. ***Historical Facts***
 - B. ***A Symbolic Interpretation***
 - C. ***Personal Application***

Historical Facts – vs. 21-23

1. Galatians had not yet turned to the bondage of the law.
 - A. Judaizes were persuading them to turn back to the law.
 - B. Paul desired to stop them.
 - C. Paul challenged them; do you really understand what the law says?

Vs. 21

1. Jewish people would use they're being a descendant of Abraham as a substitute for faith.
 - A. Jesus declared that physical descent from Abraham was not enough.
2. In vs. 22 Paul reminded his readers that Abraham had two sons.

Vs. 23 – the manner of conception.

The Symbolic (Allegorical) Interpretation. Vs. 24-27

1. Paul wants to emphasize the contrast between Law and Grace.
 - A. He accomplishes this by giving us the picture of these two mothers.
 - B. ***These two mothers paint a picture of 3 things***

Vs. 24 - Two Covenants

Vs. 25-26 - Two Jerusalem

Vs. 27 – God's Intended blessing

We are children of promise. Vs. 28

The ongoing battle between law and grace. Vs. 29

Law and grace cannot coexist. Vs. 30

Principles to Live By

1. *Live from acceptance, not for acceptance.*

- A. Because of grace you don't strive to gain God's approval.
- B. You serve because of God's approval.
- C. You don't have to measure up anymore.
- D. Grace changes our daily life like sunlight transforms a cold morning.

2. *Our identity is now in Christ not our service.*

- A. All our accomplishment, service, effort apart from Christ will never satisfy.
- B. In Christ our service and effort are not for us it is to make Christ know.
 - 1) You begin to see.
 - a. My vocation is my mission.
 - b. Being a mom to my kids is my mission.
 - c. Being a grandparent is my mission.
 - d. Being a dad is my mission.
 - e. Being a boss is my mission.
 - f. Being an employee is my mission.
- C. This leads to principle #3.

3. *We serve out of gratitude, not obligation.*

- A. This changes the entire perspective of way we work.
- B. We become the avenue of grace to others through Christ.
 - 1) We have the approval of God.
- C. Will there be times of frustration and aggravation? Yes.
 - 1) Will we have to watch our emotions and how we respond? Yes
 - 2) Will we fall short? Yes
- D. This leads to principle #4

4. *We respond to setbacks with grace.*

- A. Our identity is no longer wrapped up in those setbacks.
- B. These setbacks are opportunities to grow.

Conclusion

- 1. Rest assured, we have received an unchangeable covenant with God.