

Living Free
A Bible Study on the book of Galatians
Galatians 4
November 16, 2009

OPEN: Think back to your days in high school. What did you like about your experience? What are you glad you never have to go through again?

REVIEW:

What is the main reason Paul wrote to the Galatians?

What is Paul's response to this?

What are Paul's opponents saying about Paul?

What is Paul's response to what his opponents are saying about him?

Since the law was never meant to be a means of salvation, why did God give the law in the first place?

What barriers exist in Paul's time under the law that in Christ have no meaning?

STUDY:

Read Galatians 4:1-7. What does Paul say about "heirs" when they are minors?

How is this an analogy for the human race prior to Christ?

What does Paul mean by "elemental spirits?"

How has God made a difference?

Read Galatians 4:8-11. What was the former condition of the Galatians?

How is their desire to fulfill the demands of the Jewish law similar to their former, pagan life?

What does Paul mean by “you are observing days, and months and seasons and years?”

Read Galatians 4:12-20. Paul returns to the charge that he is not a true apostle. How does he counter that charge here?

What does verse 16 mean?

What does verse 17 mean?

Read Galatians 4:21-31. What does Paul mean in verse 21 when he asks the Galatians to “listen to the law?”

Whose story does Paul retell?

What was different about Sarah’s son’s birth?

What does Hagar correspond to, according to Paul?

What does Sarah correspond to?

What should the Galatians do to those who trouble them, just as scripture said about Hagar and Ishmael?

Who are we children of?

REFLECT

What are the elemental spirits we turn to today that keep us from living out our freedom in Christ?

If someone were to teach a different gospel today, should we drive them out or seek to convert them? Defend your answer.

What does it mean to you that you are an “heir” of God?