

the irreligious CHRIST

Part 4: It's Time To Grow Up!

INTRODUCTION – Enslaved By Religion

Colossians 2:8-10

MAJORING ON THE MINORS (THE ENSLAVING ELEMENTS)...

“elemental principles” (Gk. *stoicheia*) =

TAKE OUT: Religion enslaves by keeping us focused on _____ that distract from the big picture and on _____ rather than on the Person of Jesus.

John 5:39-40; Philippians 1:21

Cracking Open The Text

Galatians 4

- SAYING GOODBYE TO OUR BABYSITTER... vv. 1-3

The Law's relationship to Jews:

- "Tutor"** (Gk. *paidagogos*) = A slave who trains and watches over the household boys, helping them with their schooling. (3:24-25)
- "Guardian"** (Gk. *epitropous*) = A domestic steward.
- "Manager"** (Gk. *oikonomous*) = One who oversees a household.

- BIRTHED BY THE SPIRIT, EMBRACED BY OUR FATHER... vv. 4-7

SOMETHING TO CHEW ON: As Mary's son, Jesus was _____. As God's Son, Jesus was _____ on a mission.

- REFUSING TO BECOME ENSLAVED AGAIN... vv. 8-10
Amos 3:2

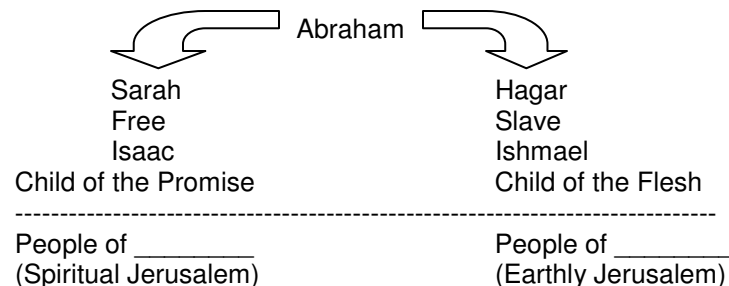
DINE IN: Salvation comes by _____ God's love, not by figuring him out.

TAKE OUT: To embrace religion, even _____ religion, is a return to slavery.

- AN APPEAL FROM THE GUT... vv.12-20

TAKE OUT: Our _____ should teach the truth we believe in.

- A SCANDALOUS USE OF SCRIPTURE... vv. 21-31



CONCLUSION – What Do We Do With The Torah?

Marcion (2nd Century) ← vs. → Jesus Paul
Rudolf Bultmann (20th Century)

KEY THOUGHT: As a system of salvation or identity, the Torah is _____ (Eph. 2:14-15). As a source of truth about God, it forever _____ as His Word (Matt. 5:17-18; Gal. 4:21).

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

- After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged you.
- Discuss the implications of this quote by Richard B. Hays: *All humanity, apart from Christ, is bound together in a solidarity of servitude.*

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

- In **Galatians 4:12** Paul asks the Galatians to become as he is (to follow his lead in living the irreligious life of the Gospel) because he became like them (even though he was a Jew, he lived as a Gentile). Also see **1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:7, 9**. How can we better use modeling to help us teach other Christians and show the Gospel to non-Christians? Brainstorm some ideas.
- Read **Colossians 2**. a) What verse stands out to you the most? Why? b) What spiritual truths does water baptism symbolize? c) What does Paul suggest here is the relationship between the Old and New Covenants? (See especially vv. 16-17.) d) List the characteristics of "religion" that can be found in vv. 20-23. What aspects of religion are attractive / not attractive to you? Why? e) According to v. 19, how does God ask us to counter the influence of religion in our lives? What does that mean?

SO WHAT?...

- See **Colossians 2:6** where Paul tells Christians to (Lit.) "walk" in Jesus – to make his life and teachings the basis for how we live. In what ways could you grow in your obedience of **Colossians 2:6-7**? Pray for each other regarding this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, November 16/23, 2003