

GALATIANS 4

In an attempt to free the Galatians from the terrible yoke of legalism, Paul appeals to their Reason and their Sentiments.

I. PAUL'S APPEALS TO THEIR REASON (4:1-7, 21-31): He offers two illustrations.

A. A legal illustration (4:1-7)

1. *The Roman father and his son* (4:1-2)

- a. The frustration (4:1): Until he comes of age, the son can enjoy very little of his father's estate.
- b. The freedom (4:2): Upon coming of age, the son can enjoy all of his father's estate.

2. *The redeemer's Father and the Father's children* (4:3-7)

- a. The frustration (4:3): While under the law, they enjoyed very little of the Father's estate.
- b. The freedom (4:4-7): Upon coming of age (effected by Christ's death), they can enjoy all of their Father's estate.

B. An Old Testament illustration (4:21-31): Paul uses the example of Hagar and Sarah, two Old Testament women, to allegorize the law of Moses and the grace of God.

1. *Hagar (an allegory of the law)* (4:21-22a, 23a, 24-25, 29a, 30-31a)

- a. She was a slave (4:21-22a).
- b. Her marriage to Abraham was fleshly directed (4:23a).
- c. Her son, Ishmael, was naturally born (4:24).
- d. Their son persecuted Abraham's second son, Isaac (4:29a).
- e. Her child was not considered Abraham's rightful heir (4:30-31a).
- f. She corresponds to earthly Jerusalem (4:25).

2. **Sarah (an allegory of grace)** (4:22b, 23b, 26-28, 29b, 31b)
- a. She was a free woman ([4:22b](#)).
 - b. Her marriage to Abraham was spirit directed ([4:23b](#)).
 - c. Her son, Isaac, was supernaturally born ([4:27](#)).
 - d. This son was persecuted by Ishmael ([4:29b](#)).
 - e. Her child was considered Abraham's rightful heir ([4:28](#)).
 - f. Sarah represents the new covenant ([4:27](#)).
 - g. She corresponds to the heavenly Jerusalem ([4:26](#)).

II. PAUL'S APPEALS TO THEIR SENTIMENTS (4:8-20)

- A. **The rebuke** ([4:8-11](#)): Again he faults them for their return to legalism.
- B. **The review** (4:12-18)
 - 1. *Paul reminds them that they once were his friends* ([4:12-15](#)).
 - 2. *Paul wants to know if they are now his foes* ([4:16-18](#)).
- C. **The rebirth** ([4:19-20](#)): Paul will again suffer the pains of childbirth until Christ is fully developed in them.