

Fake News: Combating Fickle Faith
(Galatians 4:1-31) “*Implications for the Child of God*”

~ GOOD MORNING ~

IF YOU’RE HERE VISITING TODAY...

- My name is Justan...
 - One of the Assistant Pastors

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY...

- I hope you’re enjoying the long weekend...
 - Getting time to relax.

AS I MENTIONED LAST WEEK...

- Pastor Jeff is taking a few weeks off...
 - And I have the privilege of teaching through *Galatians!*

- Turn to the book of (*Galatians 4:1-31*) NKJV

~ INTRO ~

REMEMBER WITH ME...

- We’ve introduced Galatians as...
 - A letter written to people who had a reputation of being fickle...
 - And who were quickly departing from the faith.

- They had accepted a lie about the gospel...
 - Thinking they had only been partially saved...
 - By believing in Jesus as savior.
 - This was not the “good news”

THEREFORE...

- The title of our series is...
 - “*Fake News: Combating Fickle Faith*”

SO FAR WE’VE LEARNED...

- About believing God and receiving salvation...
 - Not because I’ve done anything to earn it...
 - Nor because I’ve don’t anything worthy of receiving it.
 - Simply because I’ve believed God.

PAUL SPENT SOME TIME...

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- Defending his moment of salvation / his message / his ministry...
 - Combating a false message from false teachers...
 - Trying to derail the Christians in Galatia.

LAST WEEK...

- We took some time to *define the work of salvation*...
 - The foundational doctrines of justification by faith...
 - And underscored this teaching throughout the O.T.
 - And related it to our lives here today.
- We broke down the answer to the question...
 - How do I know I’m saved?
- We asked ourselves to clarify our salvation experience
 - And understood how this type of justification...
 - Leads to a different way of relating to God.
 - Based on His promise or our disciplines?
 - Based on freedom or restriction?
 - As a child or a slave?
- That final point of application was...
 - We relate to God based on Jesus...
 - And we live life by faith through the Holy Spirit
 - Belief + Action = Faith

~STUDY~

TODAY...

- We’re exploring (Chapter 4) which builds upon...
 - This doctrinal truth of being a child of God...
 - Underscoring the great privileges we have...
 - And the great responsibility that comes with it.

SO NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled today’s message...
 - “*Implications for the Child of God*”

THIS CHAPTER REALLY SPEAKS ABOUT LEGALISTIC CHRISTIANITY...

- And the efforts of man once we’re saved by faith...

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- Trying to earn favor with God...
 - Adding to the work of salvation that has already been given.

AS WE MOVE THROUGH GALATIANS...

- These next 3 chapters help us to understand...
 - I’m saved – Now what?!?!

(Read vv. 1-12)

~ LET’S PRAY ~

HERE’S A FEW THINGS...

- For us to walk away with:

~ IDEA # 1 – “Special Relationship with God” (vv.1-12) ~

PAUL IS CONTINUING HIS DOCTRINAL ARGUMENT...

- With illustrations to help the readers...
 - Fully understand what he’s teaching them.

(vv. 1-3)

IN ANCIENT CULTURES...

- A young child (heir) would be given a guardian to train and teach...
 - Until they came to the age of full accountability...
 - They had no freedom & could make no decisions.

PAUL IS RELATING THIS TO THEM...

- Drawing the contrast of their former experience & position...
 - To what they now enjoy as an heir (full-grown child).

TO BE CLEAR...

- Once a person receives Christ...
 - They are able to enjoy all the freedoms & benefits...
 - Of being a mature “son”
 - No special category you have to wait for or work for.

(vv. 4-5)

NEXT HE EXPLAINS THE WORK OF SALVATION...

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- In the person of Jesus Christ...
 - Who was fully God (borne of God)
 - Fully man (borne of a woman)
 - Subject to the law (So He could fulfill it)

- For two reasons:
 - Redeem all those who are under the law (B.C.)
 - Offer full rites (adoption) to those who would receive it (A.D.)
 - Speaks of position within a household
 - (Mature son would assist in leading the family)

SIDE NOTE:

- God doesn't send people to hell because of their sins...
 - People are already headed that direction because of sin...

- God offers a way out by the work of the cross...
 - People choose to reject that offer and go to hell anyway.

(vv. 6-12a)

THOSE WHO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD...

- Are given The Spirit of God in their hearts...
 - To give evidence of position
 - We'll explain this more in (Chapter 5)

 - To give family identity
 - We call upon God as our Father.

THIS PHRASE IN (v. 6) IS A FAMILIAR FORM...

IN ESSENCE...

- Paul helping them to understand...
 - They're able to have a special relationship with God...
 - And they're trading it for something that God doesn't want.

THE SIMPLE TAKEAWAY IS...

- As a child of God we can enjoy...

* a relationship that's special / intimate / unconditional

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#1 Special:

- (v. 6) “*cry out*” speaks of a specific cry...
 - Like a pigeon “coo’s”
 - A word that describes the sound.
 - Specific & intimate to the relationship
 - Much like my children to me.

#2 Intimate:

- (v. 6) “*Abba, Father*”
 - In the Aramaic language meaning “Daddy”
- Indicating both intimacy & trust...
 - Instead of formalism & legalism (Slaves) (v. 7)

#3 Unconditional:

- (v. 10) “*trying to earn favor by observing...*”
 - We cannot add to our position as children.

YES... SIN CAUSES SEPARATION...

- Between you and your Heavenly Father...
 - Just like offense & hurt causes separation...
 - Between friends and family...
 - But the position never changes!

(Read vv. 12b-20)

~ IDEA #2 – “Special Relationship To Others” (vv. 12b-20) ~

NEXT PAUL BEGINS TO MAKE APEAL TO THEM...

- Based on their personal relationship together...
 - And how Paul was received by them initially.

(vv. 12b-16)

WHEN THEY INITIALLY ACCEPTED THE GOSPEL...

- They received Paul with Joy...
 - And even recognized his ailment & weakness

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- (Possible eye condition)

AT THEIR INITIAL SALVATION...

- Their lives were marked by...
 - compassion & self-sacrifice.

NOW THEY’VE CHANGED...

- And are beginning to treat him like an enemy...
 - Because of the false teaching of a false gospel.

(vv. 17-18)

THE MOTIVES OF THESE FALSE TEACHERS...

- Differed from Paul...
 - They wanted to gain a following...
 - Paul had genuine concern for their wellbeing.

(vv. 19-20)

PAUL SHARES HIS CONCERN...

- That they are not conformed to the image of Christ...
 - Because their legalism has given them...
 - *“... a form of godliness but [they’re] denying its power.” (2 Tim. 3:5) NKJV*

WHAT’S THE POINT:

- When we move into a place of legalism & religion...
 - We lose compassion & love...
 - And replace it with division & exclusion.

THERE’S A REAL LIFE EXAMPLE OF THIS...

- In a situation with Jesus & His followers...
 - (Luke 10:38-42) NKJV
- (v. 38) Martha wanted to serve Jesus – a good thing!
- (v. 40) But got distracted with the process
 - The compassion quickly turned to anxiousness & business...
 - And she lashed out at others & destroyed all hospitality.

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- (v. 41-42) Jesus did not put that expectation on her...
 - He only wanted the relationship...
 - But a process got in the way of that.

BECAUSE WE'RE CHILDREN OF GOD...

- We have a special relationship to others.
 - Not self-focused religion to earn favor...
 - But others-focused faith to draw them closer.

(Read vv. 21-31)

~IDEA #3 – “Remains In The Family” (vv. 21-31) ~

(vv. 21-23)

AS PAUL BEGINS TO WRAP DOWN HIS DOCTRINAL ARGUMENT...

- He makes one last illustration concerning Abraham...
 - Revolving around his actions after believing God...
 - And being accounted as righteous.
 - He's describing his actions to fulfill the promise of God...
 - In the strength of his own flesh (Ishmael)
 - Versus waiting for God to fulfill the promise...
 - By His mighty power (Isaac)

(vv. 24-27)

HE DRAWS OUT THE DEEP SPIRITUAL MEANING OF THIS STORY...

- While pointing out the two different covenants...
 - God has made with His people.

- 1) Hagar / Mount Sinai / Jerusalem = brought forth slavery by flesh
- 2) Sarah / New Jerusalem = brought forth freedom by faith

(vv. 28-31)

HE GOES ON TO EXPLAIN & APPLY...

- This spiritual illustration comes out of (Genesis 21:8-20)
 - Isaac = supernatural birth / received the promise
 - Christians who accept by faith

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- Ismael = persecuted child of faith & did not receive the promise
 - Legalistic / self-reliant Christians
- Abraham = Had no inheritance for the slave child
 - Legalism receives no blessing from God / cast out those who persecute

WHAT’S THE POINT???

- Those who remain in the family as a child of God...

- Enjoy these two benefits:

1) Kept by God not human effort

- a. (1 Peter 1:3-5) NKJV

2) Abide in Jesus not in sin

- a. (John 8:31-35) NLT

- Continuing in the truth is a sign of a follower of Jesus (disciple)

- Just as Ismael was cast out of the house...
 - So those continuing in sin (as their chosen master)
 - Are not abiding in Jesus and conformed to His image.

MAYBE THIS WILL HELP TO BRING UNDERSTANDING...

- Chuck Swindoll wrote this in his commentary...

Jesus clarified the purpose for His statement. The master is sin. His statement in 8:35 that a “slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever” is meant to highlight the inferior status of a slave. Old Master Sin uses people for its own evil purposes, and when the body of the slave is wasted from use, the slave is cast out. The Son has come to liberate sin-slaves from their old master, allowing them to become sons of God. (Swindoll)

- Remaining in the family looks like...
 - Not allowing sin to be your master...
 - But allowing God to be your Father.
 - Confession
 - Repentance
 - Restoration

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THE CHURCHES IN GALATIA...

- Were going backwards in their faith...
 - Trading their freedom of relationship with God...
 - For a legalistic / religious standard.
 - We do the same when we submit ourselves as slaves to sin...
 - Trading our eternal privileges as children...
 - For temporal fleeting gratification.

THEREFORE...

- At the end of this whole message...
 - As children of God...
 - Let us stop living like a slave...
 - And start living like a child of God!

~ IN CLOSING (WORSHIP TEAM) ~

ON THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND...

- We've chosen to come out to the House of God...
 - That we might hear from His word.
- God has spoken!
 - Let us respond to Him today.