

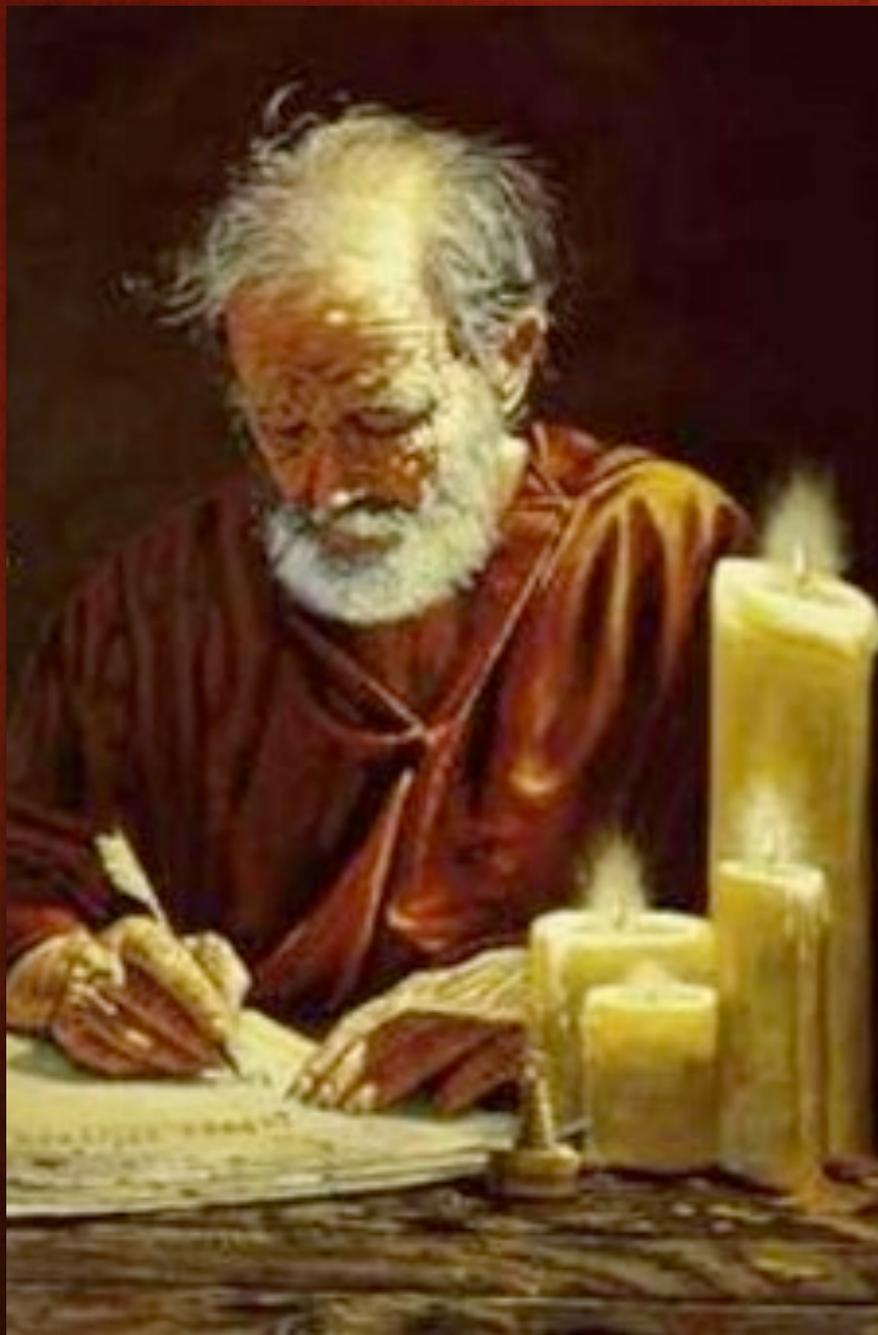
The
EPISTLE To The
GALATIANS

**"The Allegory of Hagar &
Sarah"—(4:21–31)**



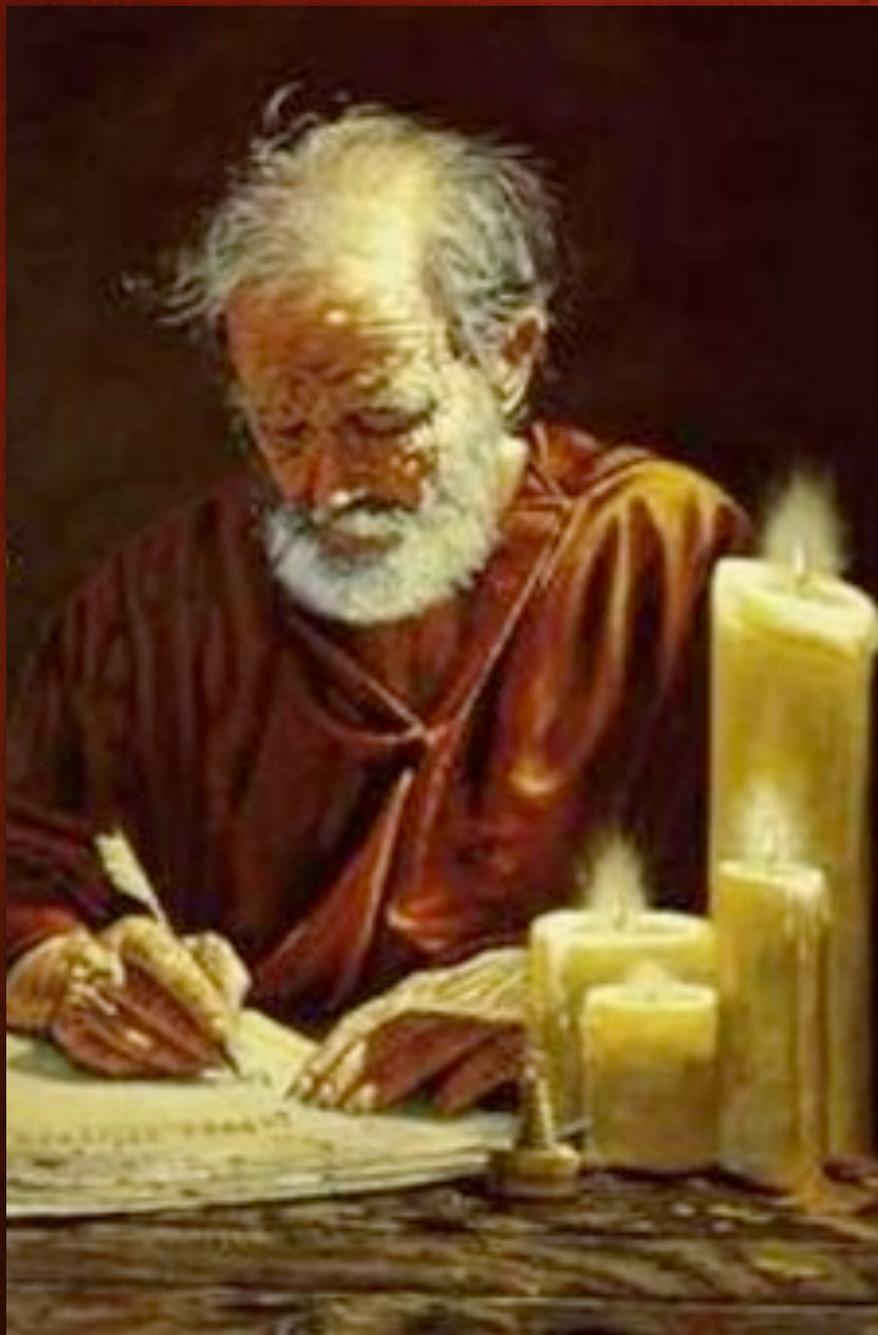
GALATIANS

A Perverted Gospel Is No Gospel At All



- **In his epistle to the churches of Galatia, Paul:**
 - * **Opposed those teaching that Gentiles must be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses.**
 - * **Presented a series of arguments contending that we are justified by faith in Christ & not by the “works” of the Law of Moses.**

Paul Defends His Apostleship – (1:11–2:21)

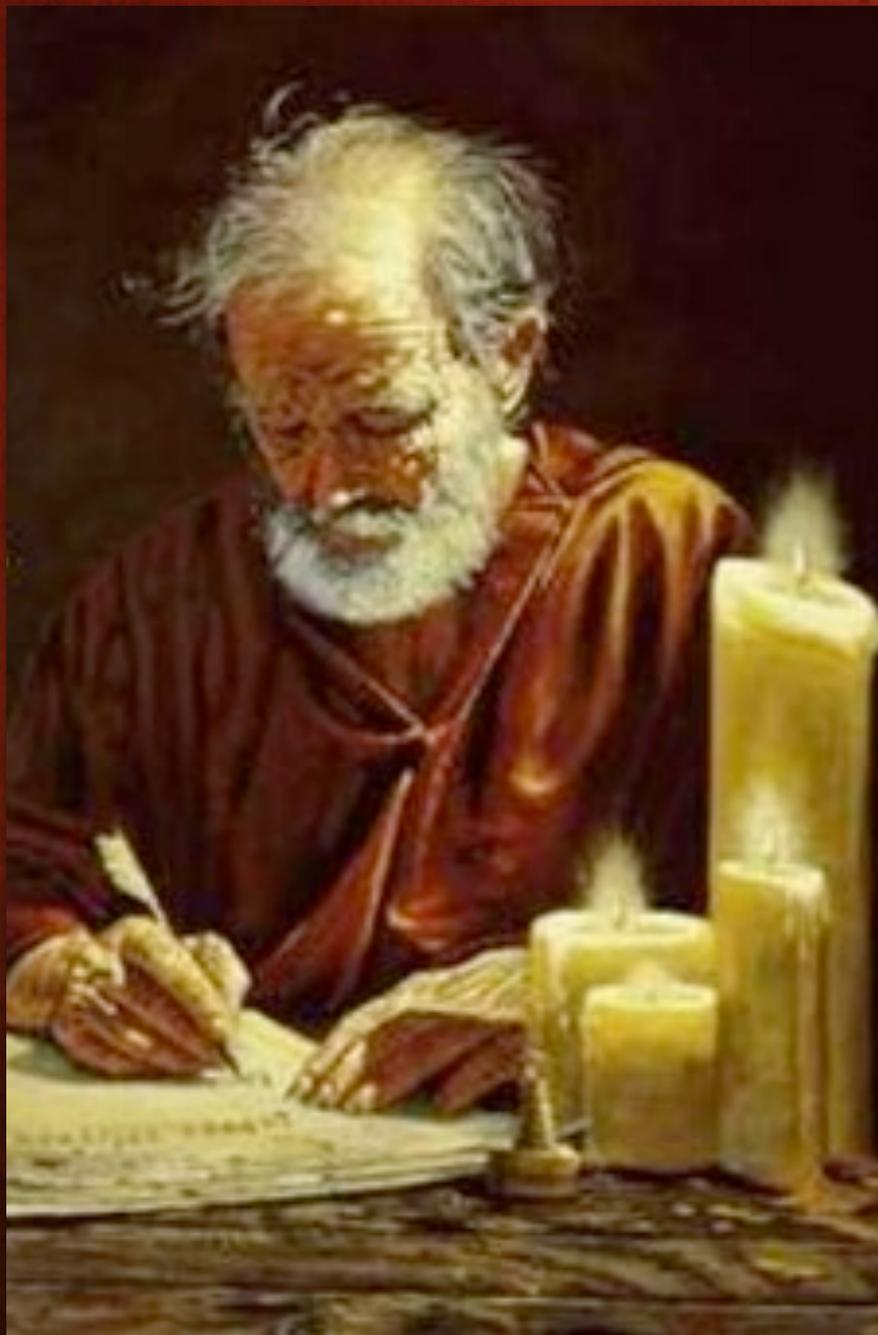


● Paul Argues

autobiographically that:

- * His apostleship was independent of the other apostles - The gospel he preached was directly from the Lord - 1:11,12
- * He was an apostle before he met the other apostles - 1:13-17
- * When he did meet them he was received as an equal 1:18-2:10
- * He even found it necessary to rebuke Peter - 2:11-21

Promise of Abraham Not Through The Law But Through Faith In Christ! – (3:1–29)



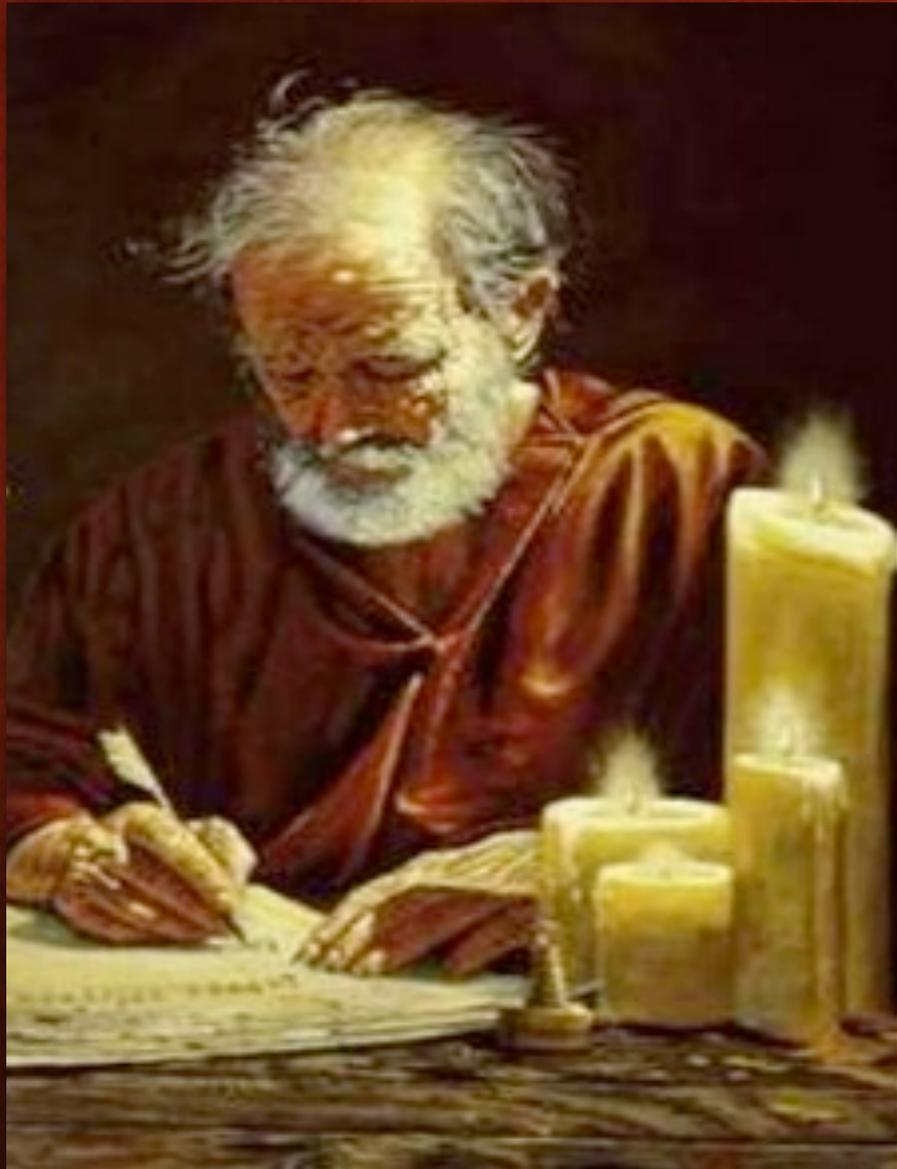
- **Paul defends the gospel he preached**
 - * By Their Experience (3:1-5)
 - * By The Example Of Abraham (3:6-9)
 - * By The Inability of the Law to Justify the Sinner (3:10-12)
 - * By The Work Of Christ (3:13-14)
 - * By Christ Being The Fulfillment of the Seed Promise to Abraham (3:15-18)
 - * By The Purpose Of The Law to Christ through whom they are released from sin - (3:19-25)

In Christ We Are Adopted As Sons & Heirs of God Through Christ! – (3:26–4:7)



- **To seek justification by the works of the Law is to return to being but a child under a guardian still in bondage to basic elements of religion**
- **To be justified by an obedient faith in Christ is to receive the inheritance as sons of God in Christ**

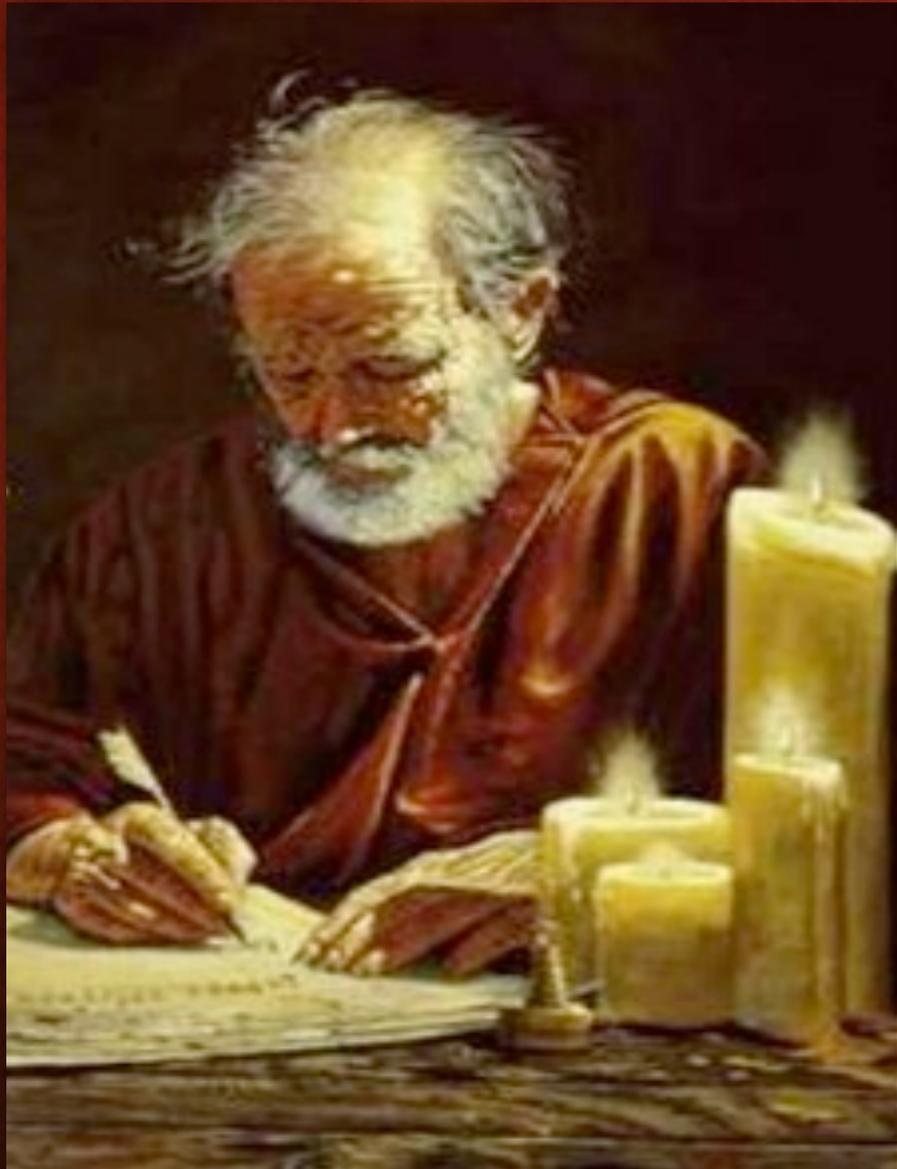
Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)



- **Paul was concerned that they were going to adapt a system that would destroy them -**
- **Paul appeals to how they had previously received him and the gospel -**
- **Paul was genuinely concerned about them and for them -**
- **His desire was that Christ be formed in them -**

"The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah"—(4:21–31)

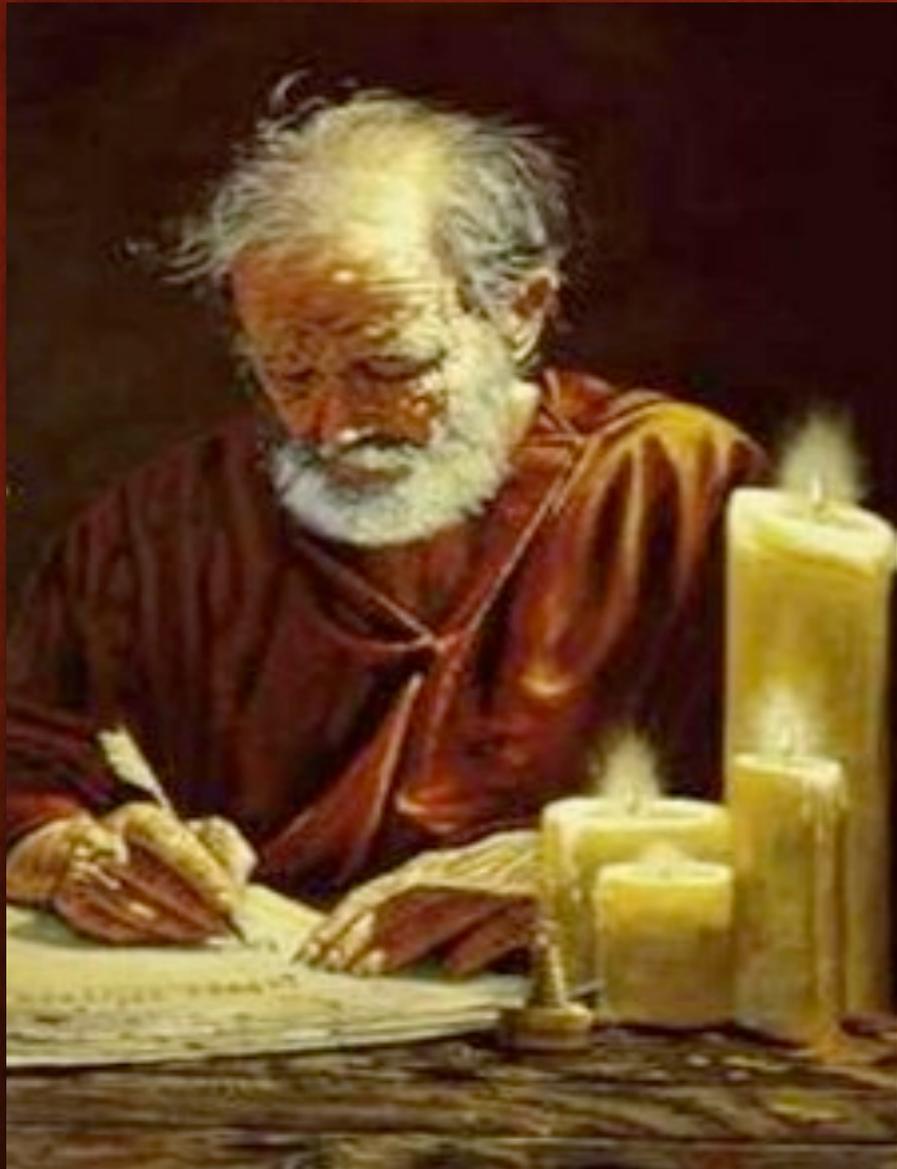
A Biblical Illustration



- **An allegory is "a figurative representation conveying a meaning other than and in addition to the literal"**
- **"Paul does not deny the actual historical narrative, but he simply uses it in an allegorical sense to illustrate his point for the benefit of his readers who are tempted to go under the burden of the law" – *Robertson's Word Pictures***

“The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”—(4:21–31)

A Biblical Illustration



- **An Old Testament story from the life of Abraham enabled Paul to review what he had already declared about contrasts between the Mosaic Law and the gospel, i.e., between works and faith.**
- **As Jesus often used parables to reinforce lessons – Paul uses this illustration to reinforce that which he had previously proven.**

Galatians 4:21-31 (NKJV)

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar--

Galatians 4:21-31 (NKJV)

²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children-- ²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. ²⁷ For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband."

Galatians 4:21-31 (NKJV)

²⁸ Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. ²⁹ But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. ³⁰ Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." ³¹ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

“The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”—(4:21–31)

The Historical Account

Galatians 4:21-22

(NKJV)

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

● Paul’s appeal to the Law

- * Since the false teachers based their teaching on the Law - Paul appeals to the law to support the truth of what he had taught.
- * Paul calls their attention to the events found in Genesis 16-21.
- * Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, & Isaac pre-figured many events that transpired between the physical descendants of Abraham, (Jews) & spiritual descendants, (Christians).

“The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”—(4:21–31)

The Historical Account

Galatians 4:21-22 (NKJV)

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

● SARAH AND HAGAR

- * Sarah, who is barren, has a handmaiden named Hagar - Gen 16:1
- * Sarah gives Hagar to Abraham to bear a child in her place - Gen 16:2-3
- * Hagar conceives and despises her mistress Sarah - Gen 16:4
- * Sarah deals harshly with Hagar - Gen 16:5-6
- * Hagar returns to Sarah, and bears Ishmael - Gen 16:7-16

“The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”—(4:21–31)

The Historical Account

Galatians 4:21-22

(NKJV)

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

● ISHMAEL AND ISAAC...

- * God promises that Sarah will have a son - Gen 17:15-17
- * God confirms the covenant will be through Isaac, not Ishmael - Gen 17:18-21
- * Sarah bears Isaac as God promised - Gen 21:1-8
- * Sarah has Abraham send Hagar away - Gen 21:9-14

"The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah"—(4:21–31)

The Historical Account

Galatians 4:23

(NKJV)

23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

● THE APOSTOLIC APPLICATION

- * One (Ishmael) by a slave woman (Hagar) - was born of the flesh - Ga 4:23a
 - ◆ Ishmael's conception was solely by Abraham & Sarah's plan, and his cohabitation with Hagar.
- * One (Isaac) by a free woman (Sarah) - was born through promise - Ga 4:23b
 - ◆ Isaac's conception was by God's power - cf. He 11:11-12 - As promised by God - cf. Gen 21:1-2 - Involved Abraham's trust & obedience - Rom 4:13-25

“The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”—(4:21–31)

The Historical Account

Galatians 4:23

(NKJV)

²³ But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

● THE APOSTOLIC APPLICATION

- * Those who are Israelites according to the flesh, (compared to Ishmael), are in relationship only through fleshly descent - (cf. John 8:39-59; Rom 9:6-16)
- * One is a true Israelite, (compared to Isaac), who is a child of promise - i.e. those in Christ. (Gal. 3; 6:16; Rom 2:28)

“The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”—(4:21–31)

The Historical Account

Galatians 4:24

(NKJV)

²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar--

● THE APOSTOLIC APPLICATION

- * One, the Mosaic, had its origin at Mount Sinai.
- * Those under this legal covenant were slaves. (3:21; 2 Cor 3:4-18)
- * As Hagar brought forth a slave, so does the Law. (Romans 7)
 - *Christ frees from Law - 1-6*
 - *Sins advantage in the Law - 7-12*
 - *The Law can't save from sin - 13-25*

“The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”—(4:21–31)

The Historical Account

● THE APOSTOLIC APPLICATION

Galatians 4:25

(NKJV)

²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children--

- * The Hagar in the allegory is Sinai - the place where the Law of Moses was given - which was located in Ishmael's territory - thus tying Hagar & Ishmael to the Law.
- * Hagar then stands for Judaism - those who follow the Law of Moses, with its earthly headquarters in Jerusalem.

“The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”—(4:21–31)

The Historical Account

Galatians 4:26

(NKJV)

²⁶ but the
Jerusalem
above is free,
which is the
mother of us
all.

● THE APOSTOLIC APPLICATION

- * The Jerusalem which is above was to be identified with Sarah, representing the new covenant & church predicted by Jeremiah and given by Christ (Jer. 31:31; Heb. 8:6-13; 12:22,23).
- * And just as the handmaid (The Law) bore children unto bondage, so the free-woman (The Gospel), bore children unto freedom. (5:1; Jn 8:32; Rom 6:14-19; 7:3,6; 8:2)

"The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah"—(4:21–31)

The Historical Account

● THE APOSTOLIC APPLICATION

Galatians 4:27

(NKJV)

²⁷ For it is written:

"Rejoice, O barren,
You who do not bear!
Break forth and shout,
You who are not in
labor! For the desolate
has many more
children Than she who
has a husband."

- * Paul quotes Isaiah 54:1 to show that the things he is teaching were divinely foretold -
- * Pointing to the barren, Sarah, as rejoicing in that she has many more children than the one who was originally fruitful, (Hagar).
- * All nations have been blessed through Sarah - in Christ - in His church.

“The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”—(4:21–31)

The Historical Account

Galatians 4:28,29 (NKJV)

²⁸ Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.
²⁹ But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

● THE APOSTOLIC APPLICATION

- * Those in Christ are like Isaac - Ga 4:28-31 (*They too are children of promise - They too have been persecuted*)
- * Ishmael (born of the flesh) persecuted Isaac (born according to promise) - Gen 21:9
- * Judaizing teachers (born of the flesh) persecuted Christians (born according to the Spirit) - (Gal. 5:11; 6:12-14)

"The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah"—(4:21–31)

The Historical Account

Galatians 4:30 (NKJV)

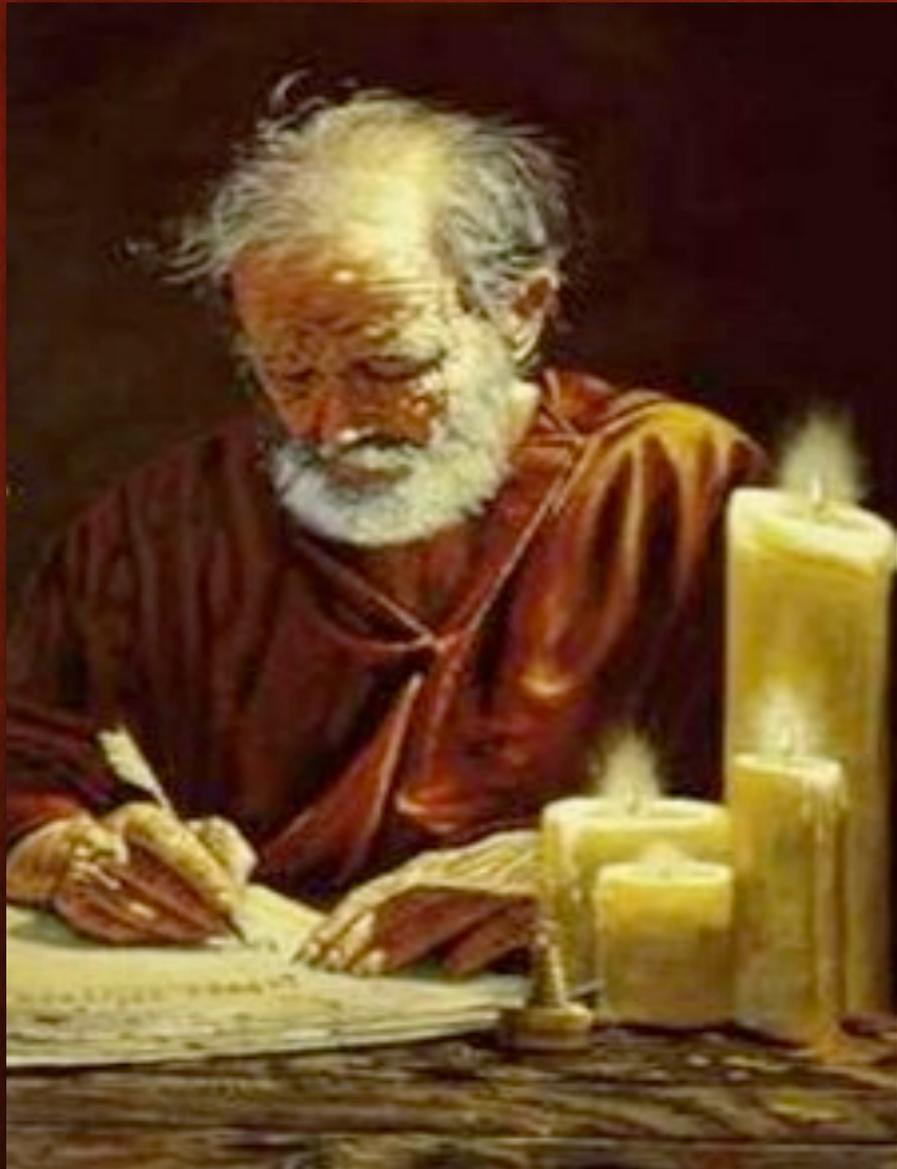
³⁰ Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

● THE APOSTOLIC APPLICATION

- * The Scriptures portend what will be the end of the Judaizers.
- ◆ The son of the slave woman (i.e., Judaizing teachers) will not inherit with the son of the free woman (i.e., those in Christ) - 5:1-4
- ◆ Those in Christ are children of the free woman (heaven above) Are not of the slave (present Jerusalem, with the Law of Moses) - and will gain the inheritance - John 8:35; Rom 8:15-17

"The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah"—(4:21–31)

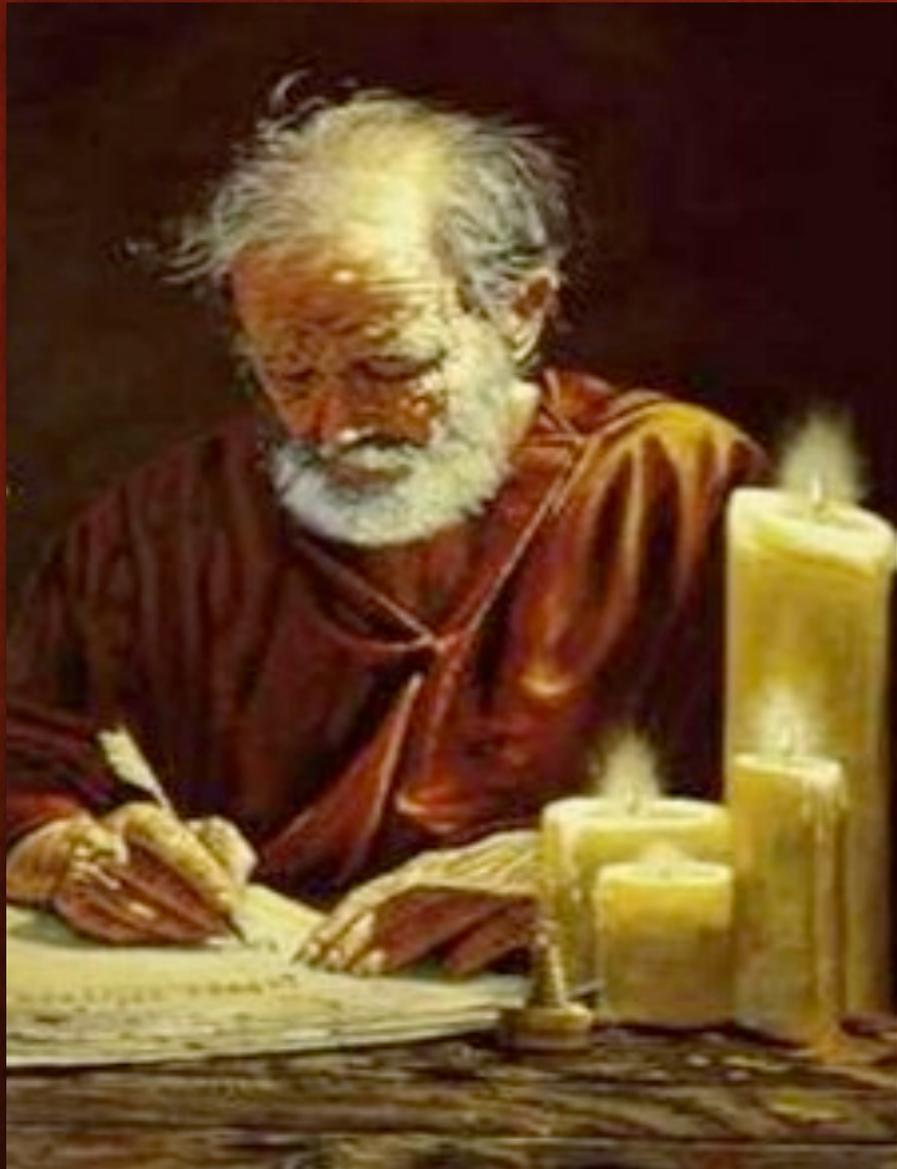
We Are Either In Bondage Or Free



- Paul illustrates why the Galatians should not heed the Judaizing teachers
 - * It would be a return to slavery (to the Law of Moses)
 - * It would be turning their back on the Spirit who conceived them - cf. Tit 3:5-7
 - * It would be turning away from the promises of heaven - cf. He 12:22-25

“The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”—(4:21–31)

We Are Either In Bondage Or Free



- **Our threat today might not be from Judaizing teachers – But there are those who would have us turn away from Christ**
 - * Voices in the world
 - * False religions
 - * The end result would be the same - A return to the slavery of sin - cf. Jn 8:31-34; 1 Pet 1:22,23

Are You A Child of God By Faith In Christ Jesus?

GALATIANS

Charter of Freedom

Galatians 3:26–29 (NKJV)

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

"The Allegory of Hagar & Sarah"—(4:21–31)

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