

Before you begin please take the time to read this chapter at least twice in order to become familiar with what Paul is saying. Paul is continuing his teaching from chapter 3. Salvation is not gained by anything we do; it is not by any of our works but by God's sovereign grace working through man's faith. You might want to back up just a bit and reread Gal. 3: 23-29. Ask God to open your heart and mind to the truth that is in His word and to change your thinking to align with His. Then you will be able to share with others the truth that is found in God's word and affect the world for Christ. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Paul is making a comparison here between what two people? Vs.1
2. Look up the word "child" in the Greek and write a brief definition of the word. Do you think they understood why Paul would have used this word?
Use the Strong's Concordance or go online to one of the websites that have Greek dictionaries; www.crosswalk.com is one.
3. Is a child ready for all the responsibilities and privileges while he is still very young? Why not?
4. At a tender young age he remains under tutors and guardians for what purpose?
5. Many cultures have a ceremony that designates the coming of age. What would life be like before this ceremony and how would it differ after it?
6. The men of that day in Galatia would have understood the point Paul was making. Whether Jew or Greek or Roman they all had some way of marking this change from child to adult. Even in our nation today we mark a difference between those who are under 18 years of age and those over 18. What is expected by the age of 18?
7. How are the child and the slave alike?
8. In verse 3, Paul states that we too were in slavery to "the basic principles of the world". To gain a greater understanding of these "basic principles of the world" continue reading through verse 10. Paul refers to them here as weak and miserable principles of their past and that they are returning to them.
 - a. What would he be referring to?
 - b. What had they previously been trusting in before trusting in Christ?
This is not a trick question. It is simple.
 - c. What do people trust in other than God's grace?
9. In verse 4 we see that God is moving according to his divine timetable; what had always been a part of God's perfect plan?
10. Christ was born into a Jewish home. Like all Jews he was under what law?

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11. Christ understands what it is like to be live day to day in the flesh; he understands our temptations and frustrations, and our desire to have our own way. What was Christ's response to it all?

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

12. Can you be tempted, frustrated and not sin?

What does it take for you to live this way?

This question may take you a few minutes to consider.

13. Look up the word "redeem" (from vs. 5) and define it.

14. What does that tell you about the purpose of Christ's birth?

All of the Old Testament laws were intended to be kept by the people of Israel; could they keep them?

15. Christ's death on the cross is often referred to as; substitutionary atonement. Jesus willingly and intentionally died in our place to be the payment for our sin. Ponder this for a moment, what does that mean to you?

Think about the love that he has for you and me; to choose to leave heaven, to come to earth to be born of a woman and live often misunderstood and rejected and to die in our place. Jn.15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

16. It is important of us to note, they did not take his life, He laid it down. What should our response be to this type of love?

17. What has God given us so that we may know we are His children? Vs.6

18. Remember, who is Paul speaking to in this letter? Galatians 1:2

19. This word "Abba" is a taken from the Aramaic word for father and is a term of endearment which was used by young children of their fathers. What word do our children use to speak lovingly of their fathers today?

This word reveals much about the type of relationship we have with our heavenly Father when we are saved and have the Holy Spirit of God living in our hearts.

- I remember the picture taken in 1963 of John Kennedy Jr. playing in the oval office under President Kennedy's desk. This was his daddy's desk and unlike other children who may have had an opportunity to come into that office he could play where he pleased. He had a close relationship with this president. It was his daddy.

Obviously the Galatians have returned to some of their religious rules and regulations that they had previously followed and attempted to add these to their walk of faith and probably were trying to force it on others also.

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20. What is Paul's fear for them? vs. 8-11 .
21. Who had they been listening to that had caused them to forget the truth previously shared with them when they came to a saving knowledge of Christ? Gal. 1:7; 2 Peter 2:1
22. What had they returned to that Paul is calling them back from? Vs. 10
23. Paul referred to them as weak and worthless elemental things, why?
24. What was the intended purpose of those things originally? Gal. 3:23-25
25. Are there people around today that would try to steer us away from the truth that salvation is by faith alone? Read Ephesians 2:8-9

The fact that believers are adopted children of God, joint heirs with Christ, leaves us with a responsibility to live for Him. All of our works, anything we try to do ourselves to commend us to God, are of no value. Isaiah 64:6 "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;..."

26. What is Paul's attitude in verse 12?
What is he appealing for them to do?
Remember Paul was a believing Jew speaking to Gentile believers.
27. Have you ever felt the need to plead with someone to stay true to the truth of God's word that they already knew?
28. In verses 21-31 Paul takes them back to their patriarch Abraham and the promise he was given. Look up Genesis 12:2; Genesis 15:1-6 write out the promises given to Abraham by God.

Abraham was 75 yrs old in Gen. 12 and he was 86 yrs old when Ishmael was born to Hagar in Gen. 15. Now let's look at Gen. 21:1-5, Abraham is 100 years old when _____.
29. What comparison does Paul make in verse 24 to Sarah and Hagar? *An allegory is an illustration that depicts a general principle.*

They can represent two _____.
30. Hagar is compared to _____ and _____. Vs. 25 These are both commonly associated with the nation of Israel.
31. What happened on Mt. Sinai many years before that changed the lives of those God had set apart as His? (Ex. 19-31, specifically Ex. 20) Locate Mt. Sinai on your map.

Is it inside or out of the promised land?

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32. What has been taking place in Jerusalem by those who desire a relationship with their God?

33. For the most part how did the Jews living in Jerusalem in Paul's day view Jesus' finished work on the cross?

Write out in 3 or 4 words a description of those who would not accept Christ as Messiah.

34. In verse 26, Sarah is compared to Jerusalem; where is this Jerusalem? (this may take a bit more time reasoning)

Read Hebrews 12:18, 22-24 Mt. Zion is the mount where Jerusalem is located. This is often used as another name for Jerusalem. Because this was the location of the temple it was often referred to as the dwelling place of God.

35. In your own words restate what Paul is saying to them by this comparison to Hagar and Sarah.

36. What promise has God given you?

Revelations 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

37. The child born to Hagar was man's attempt to fulfill his own destiny, to handle his own problem, to help God out. If we attempt to run and rule our lives what will we get?

38. If we desire to have the blessings of God on our life, what must we do first?

Galatians 2:20-21 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **21** I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

A pastor, D. James Kennedy, once said that after salvation our lives should be lived as one big thank you to God for all his grace and mercy.

39. Could this be said of your life?

40. Are you living in obedience to the one who had you on his heart and mind since the very foundations of the world?

1 Peter 1:13-20 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am

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holy." 17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

41. What did you learn from reading the verses in 1 Peter 1, Ephesians 1 and your time studying Galatians 4 that will help you live in obedience and with a thankful heart?