



Covenant of

Law and Grace

In the book of Galatians, the apostle Paul is dealing with those in Galatia who initially trusted solely in Jesus for their salvation but were falling from Grace due to the Judaizers (legalistic Jews) coming in telling them that they needed to put faith in Jesus, but they also had to adhere to the Old Testament law and perform the act of circumcision. The Gospel is all about Jesus paying it all and us simply receiving. Anytime we mix Jesus finished works and our own we have fallen from Grace.

In Chapter 4 of the book of Galatia the apostle Paul mentions 2 covenants: Law and Grace. He brings up the bond woman Hagar who had Ishmeal and the free woman Sarah who bore Issac. When God spoke to Abraham and told Him that he would bear a son. Abraham got into self-effort, works, or the flesh and had Ishmael. This was symbolic of the law that was based off man's performance. Ishmael was not the son through which the promise would come to pass and this covenant was symbolic of self-effort or what man does for God. When Abraham decided to simply believe God and the promise that was made to him (Gen 15:6), he had Issac which was who the promise Seed would come through and this was symbolic of Grace.

The two covenants in Galatians chapter 4 were; Hagar who represented Mount Sinai which is where the law was given and was a covenant based off performance and behavior. The law is bondage because it focuses on what man does for God and their effort, and ours will never be good enough (Is 64:6). Issac represents the covenant of Grace where it is not based off man's performance but is solely putting faith in the promise of what God has said.

We can now rejoice because the true seed of Abraham are those who put faith in Jesus (Gal 3:7) and the one who was barren (Sarah) can rejoice because she now has more children than Hagar. We are children of the freewoman meaning that we are not under a system where we have to perform to be right with God. We are not under the law but under grace (Rom 6:14).

Religion will always focus on man's attempt to be right with God through their own effort or holiness. The law was given to the Jews (Rom 3:19) and was a covenant based solely on

performance. If you do good you get good, and if you do bad you get bad. Anyone who has believed on Jesus is now the true seed of Abraham (Gal 3:16) and is now under Grace where we do not relate to God based off our obedience but off Jesus (Rom 5:19). Bring Hagar in to get the job done, in other words bring the law in; rules and regulations to get the job done. Religion will want to bring the law back in because it does not believe Grace (Gods goodness) is sufficient for man to turn from sin or to live holy but it is the goodness of God that leads man to repentance (Rom 2:4).

Ishmeal and Issac cannot dwell under the same roof. In other words, Law and Grace cannot be mixed. We need to kick Ishmeal (the law) out. When Abraham relied on his own effort or what he could do for God, he did not produce the promise. We can never earn anything from God, we simply need to believe what He said and receive.