

¹² Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. ¹³ You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, ¹⁴ and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ What then has become of the blessing you felt? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?

¹⁷ They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. ¹⁸ It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, ¹⁹ my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! ²⁰ I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³ But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise.

²⁴ Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labour!

For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband."

²⁸ Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰ But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." ³¹ So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. **5** For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

SET FREE BY CHRIST

Galatians 4:12-5:1

The gospel of freedom

- who are you listening to?

HOLD FAST TO GOSPEL TRUTH (4:12-20)

- gospel truth
- gospel messenger
- gospel motive

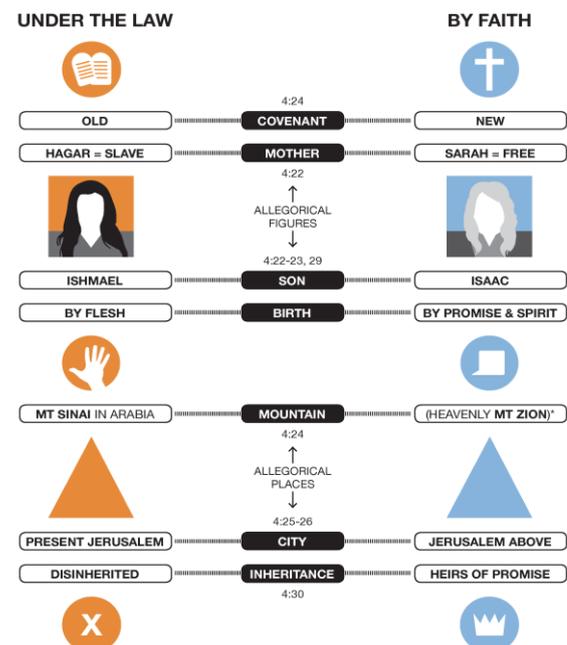
STAND FIRM IN GOSPEL FREEDOM (4:21-5:1)

- the historical story (v22-23)
- the spiritual interpretation (v24-27)
- the personal application (v28-1)

TWO WAYS TO LIVE: LAW & FAITH

GALATIANS 4

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* Although Mt Zion is not mentioned explicitly in the text, it is assumed in contrast to Mt Sinai (see Hebrews 12:18-29).