**Grace Abounding**

**A Sermon Series through the Book of Galatians**

**“Two Kinds of People”**

**Galatians 4: 21 – 31**

**God tells us that there are two kinds of people: those who are in Christ by faith and those who are outside Christ without faith. Or to say it how Paul says it here in our text, there are children of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verses children of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The Galatians (like all Christians) had been forgiven of their sin and accepted by God not because of any work and performance done by them, but rather because of a work and performance done for them – on their behalf – by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Paul has spent the most time – the most ink – in this letter grounding his argument for grace alone by faith alone in Christ alone in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – in what the Bible itself teaches concerning the law and faith.**

**Paul is teaching the Christian a fundamental lesson: the Christian life and the local church is to be shaped entirely by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and what it teaches.**

**To labor for someone and to love someone the right way – the Biblical way - is to be willing to tell them, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ even when it may be hard truth.**

**The mark of a Christ centered believer is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ truth when it is given to you.**

**Paul is not anti-law, rather he is wanting that the Galatians - and you and I – to understand the proper role, place, and function of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

 **In Genesis 16 Abraham and Sarah seek to bring the promise of God about in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ways, not by waiting but by working.**

**For Abraham and Sarah, the human solution had created more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**God does indeed keep His promise to Abraham and Sarah, because God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ keeps His promises.**

**The birth of Isaac was a result of the promise that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had made in circumstances that ruled out anything that Abraham and Sarah were capable of in and of themselves. The birth of Ishmael was an attempt at human effort and working to achieve am promise that God alone could fill.**

**Abraham had two sons: one born by a man-made effort – the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Ishmael through Hagar. The other born through by the work of God alone – the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Isaac through Sarah.**

 **Paul is saying that the real historical people and life events that actually unfolded in Gen 12 – 21can also serve to teach us a spiritual lesson and truth about how a person attempts to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God, either through the flesh (human effort) or through the promise (grace from God).**

**Those who rely on works or human performance and ability (the flesh) for their salvation (i.e. – keeping the law, circumcision, etc.) are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sons, sons of slavery.**

**Those who rest and rely on the grace of God alone to accomplish what He alone can (the promise of forgiveness and righteousness through faith in Jesus) are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sons, sons of the promise.**

**Living by performance as my source of right standing is slavery because it yokes me under a burden \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cannot keep.**

**The law teaches us that it binds us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as it exposes our lack of ability to keep it. The law makes clear our unrighteousness. The law came not to be our salvation but instead teaches us about our sin and our need for Jesus.**

**If you are seeking to be right before God by your own man-made effort, you are children of slavery – like Ishmael. If you are rightly seeking to be right before God by faith in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ work alone then you are children of freedom, like Isaac.**

**The grace of God is not for the good but for those who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that they are not good.**

**The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to cast out the false teaching that enslaves lands on the believers in the local church.**

**So many people are tempted to evaluate our spiritual standing on what we have done for God instead what God has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for us.**

Blanks: flesh; promise; Jesus; Scripture; Bible; truth; receive; law; man-made; problems; always; God; flesh & promise; relate; Hagar’s; Sarah’s; I; slavery; Jesus’s; know; responsibility; done;

Congregational Scripture Reading – John 8: 31 - 36

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.