

Galatians 4:29-31 & 5:1-2

29-31. But, as **he who was born ACCORDING to the FLESH PERSECUTED him who was BORN according to the SPIRIT**, even so it is now. 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."** So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

- **Genesis 21:1-6** "And the _____ visited _____ as _____ had _____, and the Lord did for Sarah as _____ had _____. For Sarah _____ and bore Abraham a _____ in his old age, at the set _____ of which _____ had _____ to him. And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him - whom Sarah bore to him - _____. Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Now Abraham was _____ years old when his son _____ was born to him. And Sarah said, 'God has made me laugh, so that all who hear will _____ with me.'"

Definition: "He who was born ACCORDING to the FLESH PERSECUTED him who was BORN according to the SPIRIT" - Ishmael was "born according to the flesh" in that **his birth was the PRODUCT of the MANIPULATIONS and strivings of Sarah and Abraham when they were NOT living their lives according to God's promises and His Holy Spirit.** We can slip and get our lives out of God's control also, and we call it being a "carnal Christian" (carnal means "of the flesh"), or "walking in the flesh." **Isaac was "born according to the Spirit"** in that he was the product and outcome of Abraham's faith and believing God's promises that had been made to him. **By the way, the name Isaac means "laughter" because God's promise came true in spite of impossible odds, and caused joy and laughter.** As they grew up, Ishmael was jealous of Isaac and mocked him, made fun of him, and persecuted him. People who are living their lives according to their "flesh" will also mock and make fun of true believers who are trusting in God.

- **Genesis 21:8-10 & 12-13** "So the child grew and was weaned. And _____ made a great _____ on the same day that _____ was weaned. And Sarah saw the _____ of _____ the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, _____. Therefore she said to Abraham, '_____ out this bondwoman and her _____; for the _____ of this _____ shall _____ be _____ with my son, namely with Isaac.'" "But God said to Abraham, 'Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in _____ your _____ shall be called. Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed.'"
- **Romans 4:13-16** "For the _____ that he would be the heir of the world was _____ to Abraham or to his _____ through the _____, but through the righteousness of _____. For if those who are of the law are _____, faith is made void and the _____ of no effect, because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith that it might be _____ to _____, so that the _____ might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the _____ of _____, who is the father of us all."
- **Hebrews 11:8-11** "By _____ Abraham _____ when he was called (by God) to _____ to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance. And he _____ out, not _____ where he was going. By

_____ he sojourned in the land of _____ as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with _____ and Jacob, the _____ with him of the same _____; for he _____ for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith _____ herself also received strength to _____ seed, and she _____ a _____ when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had _____."

Definition: "CAST OUT the bondwoman and her son" - This is a quote from Genesis, and both in the original situation of Abraham's son Ishmael, and now in this situation **with false teachers trying to mix Judaism with Christianity, God is very specific and, we might also think even HARSH in His treatment of them.** God would not have Hagar's son share the inheritance with Isaac, and God will not have us mix the Law of Moses with the New Covenant in Christ! Yes, God provided for Hagar and Ishmael, and said that he would make of Ishmael a great nation, just because he was Abraham's son. **However, God was NOT going to have Ishmael HANGING AROUND to MAKE TROUBLE for Isaac. The same goes for Christianity, the New Covenant in the blood of Christ - God does NOT want us to mix the Old Testament law with the NEW LIFE in the Holy Spirit.** Our duty and responsibility as Christians is NOT to try to keep the Old Testament laws, but **to YIELD our lives to the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to PRODUCE His FRUIT in our lives.**

- **John 15:8** "Herein is My Father glorified, that ye _____ much _____; so shall ye be My _____."
- **Galatians 5:18** "But if you are _____ by the _____, you are _____ under the _____."
- **Galatians 5:22-23** "But the _____ of the _____ is _____, joy, _____, longsuffering (patience), _____, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no _____."

5:1 Stand fast therefore **in the LIBERTY by which Christ has MADE us FREE**, and do not be entangled again with **a YOKE of BONDAGE**.

- **Romans 8:15** "For you did not receive the _____ of _____ again to _____, but you received the Spirit of _____ by whom we cry out, 'Abba, _____.' The _____ Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are _____ of God."
- **Galatians 5:13-16** "For you, brethren, have been called to _____; only do _____ use _____ as an opportunity for the _____, but through _____ serve one another. For all the _____ is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall _____ your neighbor as yourself.'..... I say then: _____ in the _____, and you shall _____ fulfill the lust of the _____."
- **John 8:31-32** "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, "If you _____ in My _____, you are My _____ indeed. And you shall know the _____, and the truth shall make you _____."
- **John 8:36** "Therefore if the _____ makes you _____, you shall be _____ indeed."

Definition: "SPIRIT of BONDAGE again to FEAR" - The Old Testament Law was BONDAGE, as is any kind of RELIGION that tells people they must BE GOOD ENOUGH for God to accept them (salvation by WORKS). This produces FEAR, because we KNOW we can **NEVER be GOOD ENOUGH. The LIBERTY and FREEDOM we have in Christ** comes from our knowledge that we are accepted, loved and made righteous in

God's sight **by our FAITH in JESUS**, and not because of anything we have done or are required to do.

- **Galatians 3:10** "For as many as are of the _____ of the _____ are under the _____; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does NOT _____ in all things which are written in the book of the _____, to _____ them.'"
- **Hebrews 12:20-24** "For they could NOT _____ what was commanded: 'And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or thrust through with an arrow.' And so _____ was the sight that _____ said, 'I am exceedingly _____ and _____.' But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the _____ God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of _____, to the general assembly (church) of the firstborn who are registered in _____, to God the Judge of all, to the _____ of just (righteous) men made perfect, to _____ the Mediator of the _____ covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."
- **II Timothy 1:7** "For God has _____ given us a _____ of _____, but of _____ and of _____ and of a sound mind."

2. Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become CIRCUMCISED, Christ will profit you nothing.

- **John 7:21-23** "Jesus answered and said to them, I did one work, and you all marvel. _____ therefore gave you _____ (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers) and you _____ a man on the Sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the _____ of _____ should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath?"
- **Acts 7:8** "Then He gave him the _____ of _____; and so Abraham begot Isaac and _____ him on the _____ day; and Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot the twelve patriarchs."

Definition: "If you become CIRCUMCISED, Christ will profit you NOTHING" - Circumcision was the **OUTWARD SIGN of the covenant God had with the Jews only** (Genesis 17:10 & Gen. 21:4), and we are under the New Covenant in Jesus Christ. Our faith should be entirely **in Jesus Christ and what He did for us on the cross**, when He died to pay the penalty for our sins. If a person starts trusting in religious works and ordinances (in this case, they were going back to the Jewish rite of circumcision, even for non-Jews), then they are not really trusting in Christ one hundred percent - they are trusting in their own works. Paul says **"Christ will profit you nothing"** if you try to go back to keeping the Old Testament law. **It's either ALL or NOTHING with our faith in Jesus Christ! We must TRUST HIM one hundred percent, and not try to ADD ON anything else of the flesh.**

- **Luke 22:20** "And in the same way _____ took the _____ after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup is the _____ in My _____, which is _____ for you.'"
- **Read Acts 15:1-29** (Verse 1) "And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, 'Unless you are _____ according to the custom of _____, you _____ be _____.'" (Verses 5-11) "But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, 'It is necessary to _____ them, and to _____ them to _____ the _____ of _____.' So the _____ and _____ came together to consider this matter. And when there had been much dispute, _____ rose up and said to them: 'Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the _____ should hear

the _____ of the _____ and believe. So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them, by _____ them the _____ just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, _____ their _____ by _____. Now therefore, why do you _____ God (see Matthew 4:7) by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the _____ of the _____ Jesus Christ we shall be _____ in the same manner as they." (Verse 24) "Since we have heard that some who went out from us have _____ you with words, _____ your _____, saying, 'You _____ be _____ and _____ the _____' - to whom we gave _____ such _____."

Definition: "And CERTAIN MEN came down from Judea and taught the BRETHREN, 'Unless you are CIRCUMCISED according to the custom of MOSES, you CANNOT be SAVED'" This entire section of Scripture in Acts 15:1-29 shows us that this problem of the Judaizers was common in the early church, and the apostles and early church leaders had to deal with it. **The early church was never required to keep the Sabbath, or the rite of CIRCUMCISION, or any of the Jewish laws for salvation.** After this question was dealt with by the leaders of the church, they said, "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from [eating or drinking] blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, YOU WILL DO WELL" (Acts 15:28-29). **Notice, it says "do well", not "be saved."** Staying away from idols and sexual immorality are mentioned in the New Testament (New Covenant) as something that God wants us to do, because our bodies are the temple of His Holy Spirit. **The early church leaders made the suggestions about not eating blood or meat from animals that were strangled** so that the Gentile believers would not disrespect the traditions of the Jewish believers (it was disgusting to the Jews to eat those things), but it was never a commandment or a necessity for salvation.

- **Romans 14:15 & 19** "Yet if your brother is _____ because of your _____, you are no longer walking in _____. Do not destroy with your _____ the one for whom Christ died." "Therefore let us pursue the _____ which make for _____ and the things by which one may _____ another."
- **I Corinthians 6:18-20** "Flee _____ immorality. Every _____ that a man does is outside the _____, but he who commits _____ immorality (fornication) sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your _____ is the _____ of the _____ who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your _____ and in your _____, which are God's."

Definition: "If a man receives CIRCUMCISION on the Sabbath" - God gave the law to Moses to give to the people of Israel, and circumcision was the outward sign of that covenant (Genesis 17:10 & Gen. 21:4). All male babies were to be circumcised on the eighth day after birth (Leviticus 12:3), so if the eighth day fell on a Sabbath, the priest would OBEY the law to circumcise on the eighth day, but would be "breaking the Sabbath" by doing "work" on the Sabbath, according to the way the Pharisees taught.