

Galatians 4.21-27: Need to know which branch of the family you are being asked to join

1. An argument from law for those who want to come under law

21 21 Λέγετέ μοι, οἱ ὑπὸ νόμου θέλοντες εἶναι,
Tell me, those [the ones] wanting to be under law
τὸν νόμον οὐκ ἀκούετε
don't you hear the law?

[a] the two branches of Abraham's family

22 22 γέγραπται γὰρ ὅτι Ἐβραὰμ δύο υἱοὺς ἔσχεν,
for it stands written that Abraham had two sons,
ἓνα ἐκ τῆς παιδίσκης καὶ ἓνα ἐκ τῆς ἐλευθέρας.
one [out] of a slave woman and one of a free-woman

23 ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἐκ τῆς παιδίσκης κατὰ σάρκα γεγέννηται
but the [son] of the [maid servant] slave woman was born according to the flesh
ὁ δὲ ἐκ τῆς ἐλευθέρας δι' ἐπαγγελίας.
the [son] of the free woman through promise

2. Allegorically speaking these two women speak of two covenants

24 24 ἅτινά ἐστιν ἀλληγορούμενα
which things are an allegory [constitute an allegory]
αὗται γὰρ εἰσιν δύο διαθήκαι,
for these are two covenants
μία μὲν ἀπὸ ὄρους Σινᾶ, εἰς δουλείαν γεννώσα, ἣτις ἐστὶν Ἄγαρ.
one [proceeding] from Mount Sinai bringing forth [children] into bondage, which is Hagar

[a] Hagar=Mt Sinai= present Jerusalem in bondage with her children

[a] Incarnation of the Son of God is a humiliation - a voluntary entry into our slavery

[b] Jerusalem above is free, she is our mother

[c] The Old Testament [Isaiah 54.1 LXX] [see also 52.12] addressed to the ideal Zion, bidding her rejoice as they return from exile.

25 τὸ δὲ Ἄγαρ Σινᾶ ὄρος ἐστὶ ἐν τῇ Ἀραβίᾳ,
Now Hagar is Mt Sinai in Arabia

συνστοιχεῖ δὲ τῇ νῦν Ἱερουσαλήμ
and corresponds to the present Jerusalem
δουλεύει γὰρ μετὰ τῶν τέκνων αὐτῆς
for she is in bondage with her children

26 ἡ δὲ ἄνω Ἱερουσαλήμ ἐλευθέρη ἣτις ἐστὶν μήτηρ ἡμῶν
but the Jerusalem above is free, which is our mother

27 γέγραπται γὰρ,
for it stand written
Εὐφράνθητι, στείρα ἢ οὐ τίκτουσα
Rejoice you barren woman that does not bear
ῥῆξον καὶ βόησον, ἢ οὐκ ᾠδίνουσα
break forth and shout, you who does not travail

Galatians 4.27-5.1: Galatians are already the children of the free woman: need to preserve this.

The Galatians are already children of promise - as was Isaac

ὅτι πολλὰ τὰ τέκνα τῆς ἐρήμου μᾶλλον ἢ τῆς ἐχούσης τὸν ἄνδρα,
 For more are the children of the desolate than of her who has the husband

28 28 ὑμεῖς δέ, ἀδελφοί, κατὰ Ἰσαὰκ ἐπαγγελίας τέκνα ἐστε
 And you, brethren, like [according to] Isaac, are children of promise.

29 29 ἀλλ' ὥσπερ τότε ὁ κατὰ σάρκα γεννηθεὶς ἐδίωκεν τὸν κατὰ πνεῦμα,
 But as then, he [that was born] according to the flesh persecuted him [that was born] according to the spirit,

οὕτως καὶ νῦν
 so also now,

30 30 ἀλλὰ τί λέγει ἡ γραφή
 but what does the scripture say,

Ἔκβαλε τὴν παιδίσκην καὶ τὸν υἱὸν αὐτῆς.

Cast out the maid servant and her son;

οὐ γὰρ μὲν κληρονομήσει ὁ υἱὸς τῆς παιδίσκης μετὰ τοῦ υἱοῦ τῆς ἐλευθέρως.

for the son of the maid servant shall not inherit with the son of the free-woman

31 31 δίο, ἀδελφοί, οὐκ ἐσμὲν παιδίσκης τέκνα ἀλλὰ τῆς ἐλευθερίας
 therefore brethren, we are children not of the maid servant but of the freewoman

[a] history is repeating itself in that the children of the freewoman [born according to the Spirit] are being harassed by those of the bond woman [born according to the flesh]

[b] Need to make a decisive separation of these two sons when you are one of them.

[c] As it was then, so the maintenance of freed must be reserved now.

5.1 τῇ ἐλευθερίᾳ ἡμᾶς Χριστὸς ἠλευθέρωσεν
 with [by] this freedom Christ has set us free
 στήκετε οὖν καὶ μὴ πάλιν ζυγῷ δουλείας ἐνέχεσθε.
 stand therefore, and do not be again held by a yoke of slavery