



I. OUR STRUGGLE WITH SALVATION BY GRACE

To many of us salvation by grace seems “to easy”. The punishment fitting the crime makes more sense to us. That “balances the moral books”.

II. HOW TO EMBRACE A NEW FAMILY – GALATIANS 4:1-31

1. Embrace a new way of approaching God: I am His child – not a slave (v.1-7)

You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, “Don’t handle! Don’t taste! Don’t touch!”? Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person’s evil desires.
Colossians 2:20-23 (NLT)

2. Embrace a new way of approaching religion: I am known by God (v.8-20)

3. Embrace a new way of approaching the future – I am free (v.21-31)

A SUMMARY OF PAUL'S ILLUSTRATION

A RELIGION OF WORKS

Hagar—The Bondswoman

Ishmael—Natural Birth

The Old Covenant

Earthly Jerusalem

A RELIGION OF A GRACE

Sarah—The Free Woman

Isaac—Supernatural Birth

The New Covenant

Heavenly Jerusalem*

Does this scripture condone slavery?

- The condemnation of slavery appears on every page of the Bible
- The most notable is that every human being is created in the image of God, loved and valued by Him. Therefore everyone is deserving of rights like love, respect, dignity, and freedom.
- Scriptures:

“Anyone who kidnaps another and either sells him or still has him when he is caught must be put to death.

Exodus 21:6 (NIV)

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

1 Timothy 1:8-11 (NIV)

- However, in ancient times certain economic realities like extreme debt or poverty would cause people to sell themselves, their services and even some of their freedoms and become “servants” of others in order to provide for their family or have their needs taken care of. While never preferred—the Bible did allow for this kind of “slavery”. But, also gives very strong and specific directives about the godly and humane treatment of such servants (See Deuteronomy 15:12-15, Ephesians 6:9, Colossians 4:1)