

7. How important to Jesus is circumcision today? \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 6)

8. The important thing for Christ is that we have \_\_\_\_\_ that works through \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 6)

**Match the Appropriate Phrase:**

- |                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ____ 1. Son of Sarah               | a. Between God and Abraham |
| ____ 2. To Christ                  | b. Have fallen from grace  |
| ____ 3. Hagar represents           | c. Isaac                   |
| ____ 4. Circumcision was           | d. Circumcision is nothing |
| ____ 5. Those justified by the law | e. Mt Sinai                |

**True or False**

- \_\_\_ 1. Isaac and Ishmael were sons of Abraham (Gen. 16:15; 21:3).
- \_\_\_ 2. The bondwoman and her son were cast out (Galatians 4:30).
- \_\_\_ 3. We must stand fast in the liberty given by Jesus Christ.
- \_\_\_ 4. God still wants every male to be circumcised.
- \_\_\_ 5. We can mix the Law of Moses and the Law of Christ and be in the grace of God.

**QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT**

- 1. What does the casting out of Hagar and her son, Ishmael, represent? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. If one has fallen from grace, is he or she still saved? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Why can't we worship any way we choose if we are sincere in our worship? (Gal 1:6-9; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Why doesn't God require circumcision today? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. How was Abraham the father of two covenants, the old and the new? \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

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# A STUDY OF GALATIANS

By John K. Wills

## 6. Types of the Two Covenants

Study: Galatians 4:20-5:6; Genesis, Chapters 16, 17, 18, and 21

### BONDAGE OR FREE?

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Long ago God promised Abraham that he would be the “father of many nations.” God told Abraham, “‘Look now toward heaven and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be’” (Gen. 15:5). When Abraham was 99 years old and his wife Sarah was 90, they were still childless. Sarah lacked faith that God could give them a child, because she was long past child-bearing age. She decided to help God keep His promise. She gave Abraham her Egyptian servant, Hagar, as a second wife, thinking that Hagar’s son would be her own child. Sarah lived to regret her mistake, and at the age of ninety-one she gave birth to her own son, Isaac (Genesis 17:17-21; 21:1-3).

The two sons of Abraham: Ishmael, son of Hagar; and Isaac, son of Sarah; became symbolic of the two covenants God made with the descendants of Abraham. Ishmael, the handmaiden’s son, was symbolic of the Law of Moses. Isaac, son of the free woman, Sarah, became the symbol of liberty under the new covenant of Christ.

### Symbolic representation of Abraham’s two sons:

<u>ISHMAEL</u>	<u>ISAAC</u>
Son of bond woman	Son of (God’s) promise
Mount Sinai (Jerusalem in bondage)	Mount Zion (Heavenly Jerusalem)
Born of flesh	Born of promise
Fleshly	Spiritual
Yoke of bondage	Liberty (from sin) in Christ
Law of Moses	New Covenant of Christ
Cast Out	Salvation through Christ

False teachers had come to the churches of Galatia touting the need for Christians to follow parts of the Law of Moses. Paul used the two sons of Abraham to show the superiority of the new covenant of Christ over the law given at Mount Sinai. One was a law of bondage, illustrated by a son born to a bond servant. The other was a law of freedom and liberty, represented by Isaac, the son of the free woman and heir of his father. In Christ we have freedom from sin, because His blood redeemed us from the bondage of sin. To go back to the Law of Moses, Paul said was “foolish” (Gal. 3:1).

**Fill in the Blanks or Underline the Correct Answer.**

1. What question did Paul ask those who desired to be under the Law of Moses? \_\_\_\_\_? (vs. 21)
2. Paul used the sons of \_\_\_\_\_ to illustrate the difference between the Law of Moses and the Covenant of Christ. (vs. 22)
3. The son of the bondwoman was born according to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Abraham’s and Sarah’s lack of faith and impatience with God). The son of the free woman was born through \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 23).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ represented those in (earthly) Jerusalem who were in \_\_\_\_\_ because they were still trying to live under the Law of Moses. (vs. 25)
5. Which mother and son represented spiritual Jerusalem and the freedom in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 26).
6. Christians, like \_\_\_\_\_ are the children of \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 28).
7. “But as he who was born according to the \_\_\_\_\_ then persecuted him who was born according to the \_\_\_\_\_, even so it is \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 29). Ishmael persecuted \_\_\_\_\_ and was cast out” (Genesis 21:9-10).
8. Can the son of the bondwoman (Hagar) be an heir with the son of the free woman (Sarah)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 30).
9. What was to be done to the bondwoman and her son? \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 30). What does this say to us about the Law of Moses? \_\_\_\_\_.

**WE CAN FALL FROM GRACE**

Some believe that a Christians cannot fall from grace, and that once people are saved, they are always saved. Those who teach this doctrine do not understand what Paul wrote to the Galatians by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Paul said those who try to be justified by the Law of Moses are **fallen from grace**. One cannot fall unless he is standing. A non-Christian cannot fall from grace because he has never been in God’s grace. One cannot lose what he never had. For one to fall from grace, he must first have had that grace.

There are many examples in the Scriptures that indicate we can fall from God’s grace. To the church at Corinth Paul wrote, “Therefore let him that stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12). The Hebrew writer said, “looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled” (Hebrews 12:15). To Timothy Paul wrote, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times **some will depart from the faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1).

If one cannot fall from grace, there would have been no need for the Holy Spirit to inspire the writers of the New Testament to include these warnings against falling away. The truth is that **one can fall from grace** by being deceived or by returning to a love of the world.

(Read also Hebrews 10:36-39; 12:1; and 2 Peter 2:12-15.)

1. In what are we to stand fast? \_\_\_\_\_ (5:1)
2. We should not be entangled again by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 1).
3. Circumcision was the sign given by God of a covenant between Him and \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 17:9-11).
4. How much does circumcision help us with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 2)
5. If we attempt to be justified by the law we become \_\_\_\_\_ from Christ and \_\_\_\_\_ from grace. (vs. 4)
6. Through the Spirit we eagerly wait for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ by faith (vs. 5).