

“The Freedom and Fruitfulness of the Gospel”
Galatians 4:21-5:1

“Now I would *REMIND* you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you *RECEIVED*, in which you *STAND*, and by which you are *BEING SAVED*, if you *HOLD FAST* to the word I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of *FIRST IMPORTANCE* what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in *ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES*, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in *ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES*, and that He appeared to Cephas [Peter], then to the twelve.”
(1 Corinthians 15:1-5; cf. Ephesians 2:1-5)

- We should strive to KNOW the Word of God so that we are not deceived (John 17:17).
 - Paul is assuming that his readers have an understanding of the Old Testament and Paul is stating that the Old Testament is actual history.
 - Genesis 12:1-3 → *The Promise Given by God.*; Genesis 15:1-4 → *The Promise Repeated.*; Genesis 16:1-6 → *The Promise is Attempted to be Accomplished by the Flesh.*; Genesis 17:15-19 → *The Promise Repeated.*; Genesis 21:1-7 → *Isaac is Born Supernaturally by Grace.*
 - Ultimately the Promise is fulfilled in Christ. Faith in Christ is the means in which men and women are saved (Galatians 3:10-15).
- The Illustration:
 - Hagar: (Slave, Man’s effort, The Law, Bondage, Lostness, Fleeshy or Earthly, Works, Old Covenant)
 - We are all SLAVES to sin outside of Christ (Romans 6:17-18).
 - By works of the FLESH no person will be saved (Romans 3:20).
 - The purpose of the Old Covenant/Law was to make us AWARE of our sinfulness, not save us (Romans 3:20).
 - Mount Sinai is where the Law was given, or condemnation was spoken over mankind/God as JUDGE (Hebrews 12:18-21).
 - Mere ceremonies, traditions, and heritage are what are trusted in for salvation; not by transformation that comes by faith in God (John 8:37-44).
 - Sarah: (Freedom, Grace, Christ, Sonship, Miraculous, Spiritual, New Covenant)
 - We are FREE from the curse of the Law because Christ took on the curse for us (Galatians 3:13).
 - We are SUPERNATURALLY born in Christ not because of our efforts but because of the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - We come to God as our JUSTIFIER not as our judge. He has justified us through the work of Christ and now we can enjoy God (Romans 3:26; Hebrews 12:22-24).
 - Through the New Covenant we can walk in OBEDIENCE to God and put our sin to death (Romans 8:12-13).
 - We now have the ability and privilege to worship God in spirit (sincerity and love) and in truth (according to God’s Word) (John 4:24; Matthew 15:7-9).
- Freedom and Fruitfulness: (Galatians 4:27; Isaiah 54:1)
 - 1) Contextually this is a message of hope to the Jewish exiles in Babylonian Captivity, that they again would be free and fruitful (Isaiah 54:1). 2) This is applied to Sarah, that despite her barrenness she will be fruitful in the miraculous birth of Isaac (Galatians 4:26). 3) This is also applied to the person who is dead in their sin, that through faith in Christ, they can be made alive and have a life of fruitfulness (Galatians 5:1). 4) This can also be applied to the heavenly Jerusalem, in that it was once empty, but is now full of the Old Testament Saints and those that are a part of the Church (Hebrews 12:23-24).

Worship: Tis So Sweet — Various Artists
In Tenderness — The Sing Team

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery — Matt Boswell
Closing Song: His Mercy Is More — Matt Boswell

Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

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| Account Balance: \$32,188.61 January Balance: \$32,528.08 | Weekly Budget: \$3,290 |
| Total Giving: February 5 | \$4,793 |
| Total Giving: February 12 | \$3,395 |
| Total Giving: February 19 | \$2,908 |
| Total Giving: February 26 | \$2,855 |

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of March we are collecting monetary donations for HeartCry Missionary Society. For more information about HeartCry, please see the board in the entryway! There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations. You can also donate through Venmo, please be sure to note that the donation is for HeartCry!

★**ANNIVERSARY SERVICE:** We will be celebrating our 6th anniversary as a church in TWO WEEKS, on Sunday, March 26th! This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, family, and neighbors to hear the gospel proclaimed and to join us for this celebration!

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service! EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!